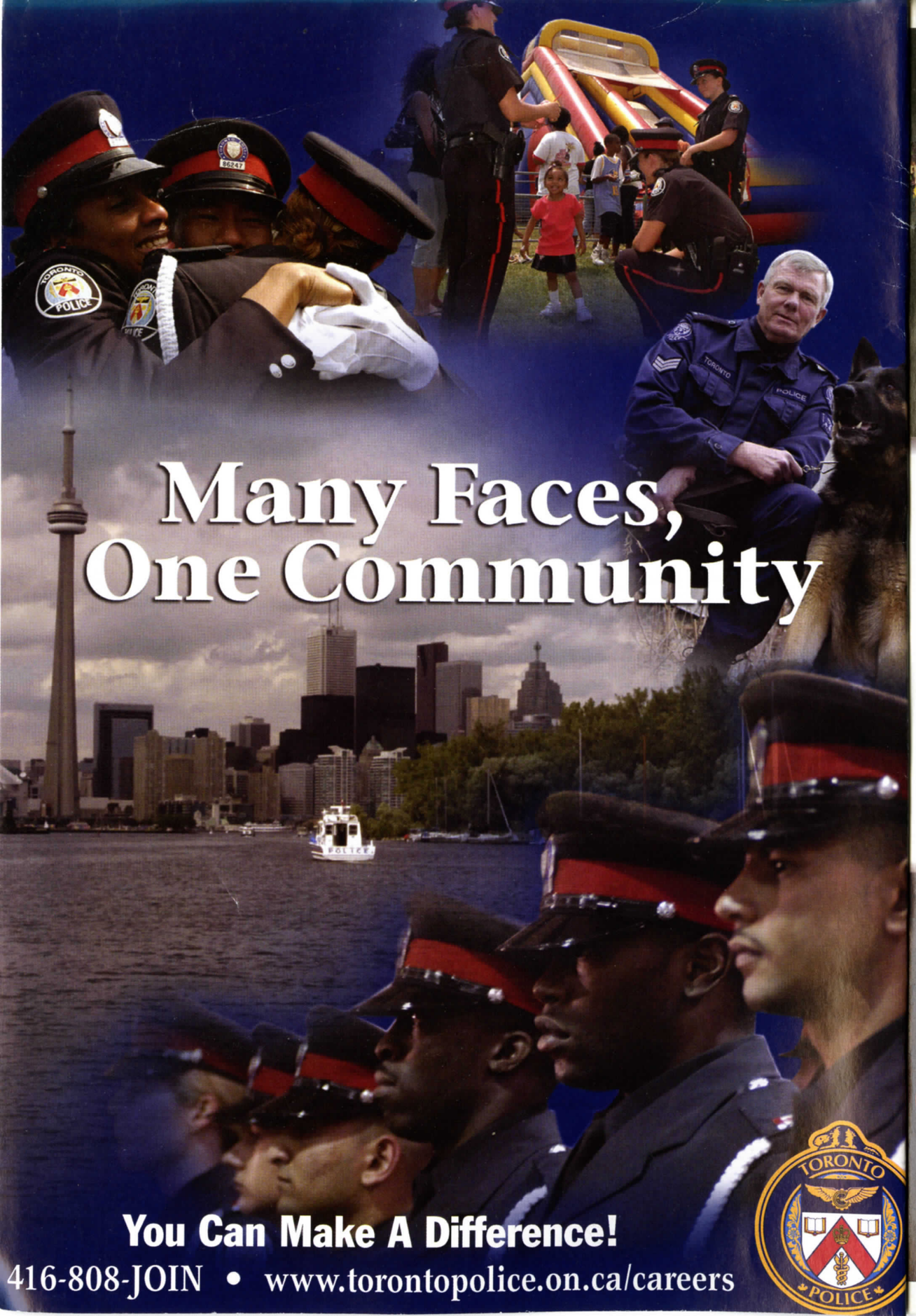
Sway
swaymag.ca
Spring 2007
FREE
K-OS GOES SOUTH
REELWORLD ROLLS OUT JAMAICA
&
SPRING FASHION SETS OFF METAL DETECTORS
GROWING UP FATHERLESS
AT HOME WITH TERESE SEARS
3 BLACK ENTREPRENEURS
Plus!
DIY SPA, AFROCENTRIC YOGA, BILLY BLANKS & MORE
Tamia
talks about career, health and her marriage to NBA superstar Grant Hill — meet the new boss
HARRY JEROME AWARDS 52 JUNO WHO SHOULD WIN? 56 AUTHOR AUSTIN CLARKE ON IMMIGRANTS AND IDENTITY 66



So yuh living in Canada and missing your Caribbean paradise? No problem man! JumpTV has yuh back as it reconnects you with media from home.

With the #1 News and Entertainment channels from some of the Caribbean islands it's no surprise that most of JumpTV.com subscribers are repeat customers. Channels such as HypeTV, CVM and TVJ from Jamaica, CNC3, Gayelle The Channel and ieTV hail from Trinidad and Tobago while Canal 11 and TNH are from Haiti. But the West Indian content doesn't stop there!

The Guyanese community can enjoy their favourite programs from NCN TV as well as on demand and LIVE shows from many other Caribbean islands including the recently concluded Chutney Soca Monarch and the Soca Monarch Finals.

Excited about the offering?

Why not check them out using any of the coupon codes included in the ads on this page.

JumpTV (www.jumptv.com) is the world's leading destination for online television. With over 270 channels from 70+ countries, JumpTV delivers its subscribers full-screen news, sports and entertainment content on a real-time basis from all corners of the globe. JumpTV has subscribers in over 100 countries who view channels on the JumpTV online network via ordinary Internet connections on their home computers, laptops, Internet-enabled televisions, mobile phones and video game consoles.

Salute to success

Just weeks ago, flying back and forth to and from Montreal, I was totally in the clouds (literally and figuratively), unaware that a career change was looming. Trust me when I say that being appointed publisher of the newly redesigned *Sway* was the last thing on my radar. But as a proud Barbadian with family still living there, I'm delighted at the opportunity to serve the African- and Caribbean-Canadian communities.

Now, barely two months into this exciting new challenge, I can say I've found the transition a delight. I've never been so humbled by a team of talented and passionate professionals. The writers, editors, designers and photographers who bring you this magazine have been so inspiring to work with, I completely forgot to panic over the huge responsibility that's been thrust upon me. Namely, to deliver a first-class lifestyle magazine that salutes the successes of the black community — something other media tend to overlook.

For spring, we cover a lot of ground, from the serious to the sensational. From the challenges facing fatherless children (page 47), the mix of the personal and the political in the story of a mentor who turned out to be a fugitive (page 49) and the inspiration of the Harry Jerome Awards, to interviews with R&B sensation Tamia (page 25), and hip-hop heroes both local (k-os, page 54) and international (Chuck D of Public Enemy, page 58). From a gold-diggin' fashion prediction that will set off metal detectors (page 20) to a story on how the nominations would look if *Sway* ran the Junos (page 56), *Sway* has our community covered.

The word "sway" can mean many things. For me it has the most resonance as a synonym for the word "influence" — it's the perfect fit for a magazine about the power and the pulse of a people, a record of the myriad contributions of the black community, from the glamorous to the grassroots.

The word "sway" can mean many things. For me it has the most resonance as a synonym for the word "influence" — it's the perfect fit for a magazin about the power and the pulse of a people.

I've received many calls from loyal readers asking when the next issue would be on the stands — a true testament to the power of this publication. But our aim goes beyond the gratification of putting out a magazine. In 30 years of publishing I have sat on many committees, most recently the alumnae of Harrison-Queen's College Association, raising funds for several charities, including the Sickle Cell Anemia Association of Ontario and the Hurricane Ivan Grenada Relief Fund. This year we are fundraising for AIDS prevention in Barbados.

I know the importance of community building. So my mandate is for *Sway* to become a vital link for members of our community. In order to achieve this goal, we need to hear back from you, our readers. That way we can ensure an editorial policy of inclusiveness while celebrating all that our community has to be proud of.

We want your feedback. Send your comments to letters@swaymag.ca. And don't forget to check us out online at www.swaymag.ca.

Enjoy the issue.

Sincerely,

Cheryl

CHERYL PHILLIPS

We dare you to compare your insurance rates.

$1,098.00/year

$4,513.00/year

You may be paying 4 times higher, over 300% more for the same thing.

Instantly compare what you're paying to over 30 other insurance company rates. InsuranceHotline.com arranges them by price, and gives you the 3 lowest.

Rates between insurance companies can vary by 100's, even 1,000's of dollars.

Jump on-line and compare. Plus your quote will be emailed to you, instantly. You'll be shocked how much savings you'll find in less than a few minutes.

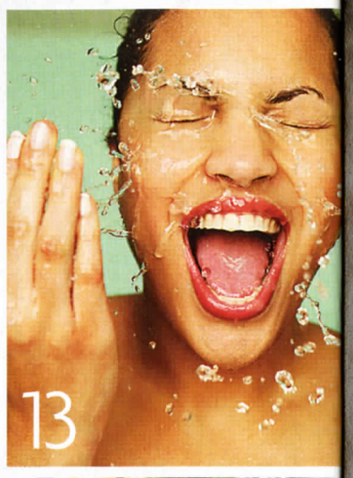
AUTOMOBILE • MOTORCYCLE • MARINE • HOME • LIFE
HEALTH • TRAVEL • COMMERCIAL

InsuranceHotline.com

Putting money back in your pocket.

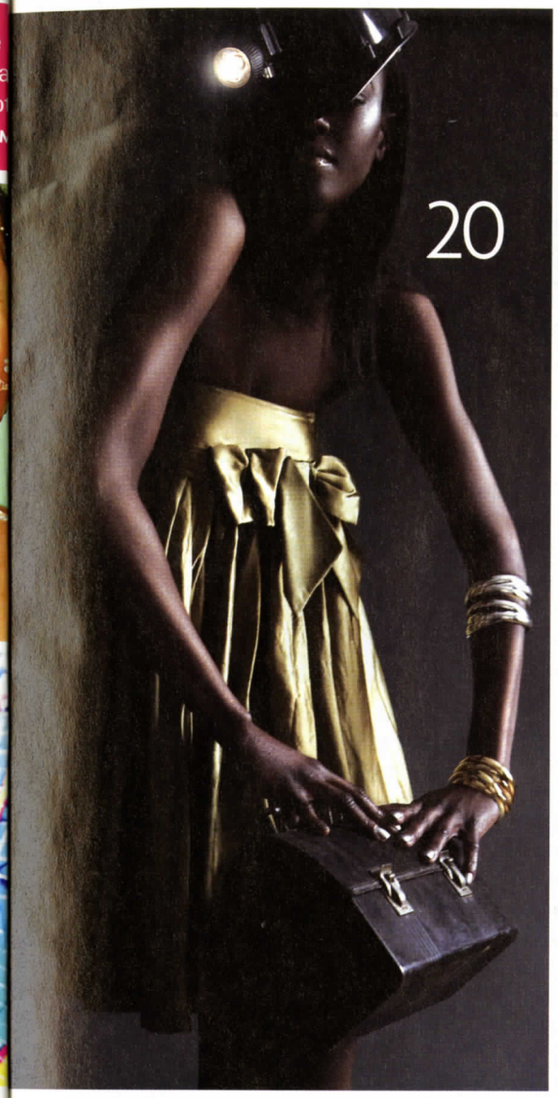
CONTENTS

25 "It took me a bit of time in the dustry to realize that if you wa to be the one to call all the sho you have to be the boss." — TA



"Isn't it strange that we in North America perceive being black as being American, and that every icon that we have — the way they walk, they way they talk — has to do with America?" — **K-OS**

54



"We are the keepers of black aesthetics. If we don't look at them and keep looking at them they get subsumed into the mainstream... and when we talk about history and legacy we lose those." — **AHDRI ZHINA MANDIELA, ROCK.PAPER.SISTAHZ**

"On one hand everything is sexually explicit, but the minute we start talking about sex, we find that a lot of people are uncomfortable. We need to have a healthier attitude toward it."

62 AUTHOR MARY B. MORRISON

ascendance

Publisher's Letter 4

Contributors 8

prevalence

NEWS & NOTABLE 10

transform

BEAUTY

We spa what we eat
Tasty treatments **12**

D.I.Y spa
Go big or go home **13**

Ask an Expert
Feeling as good as you look, plus seasonal hair damage **14**

Bargains
Pamper yourself for $20 or less **15**

HEALTH & FITNESS

Afrocentric yoga
Brown girl in the ring **17**

Billy Blanks
Tae Bo founder talks about dyslexia, being a fitness phenom and his interracial marriage **18**

swagger

FASHION

Diggin' it
I ain't sayin' she's a gold digger, but she's setting off metal detectors **20**

influence

COVER STORY

Talkin' with Tamia
Canadian Grammy-nominated R&B singer opens up about her family, her fight with multiple sclerosis and her new album **25**

PEOPLE WITH SWAY

Profiles in inspiration
Joan Butterfield, Sam Mitchell, Dwayne Morgan, and Audrey Walters **28**

impress

HOME DECOR

At Home With...
Global TV reporter Terese Sears invites us in **32**

Hot Items
Kalahari Kool **35**

FOOD

We visit Kultura
Former Bass is Base Juno winner Roger Mooking spices up Toronto's foodie front **36**

EVENTS

Sway Was There
Our shutterbugs at Canadian Music Week, Colour Blind and the ReelWorld Film Festival media launch **38**

Get out!
Places to go, people to see — check out our what's-on guide **40**

power

CAREER

Role model
Bay Street lawyer Evelyn Ackah says it isn't all TV drama **42**

REAL ESTATE

3BE
Three black entrepreneurs redefine "homeboy" by getting into real estate **44**

MONEY

Q&A
Tax-time advice **46**

inspire

COMMUNITY

Special Report: Where's Daddy?
Nearly half of black children in Canada grow up without a father **47**

A MEMOIR: Friend and fugitive
US authorities say he's a criminal; *Toronto Star* reporter Morgan Campbell remembers Gary Freeman as a mentor **49**

Harry Jerome Awards
Celebrating a quarter-century of excellence and achievement in the black community **52**

reach

MUSIC

k-os theory
Local hip-hop star prepares to take the US by storm **54**

Juno who should win?
If *Sway* ran the awards, they'd be a lot more colourful **56**

New releases 57

Interview: Chuck D
After two decades, Public Enemy's legendary hip-hop frontman still doesn't believe the hype **58**

FILM

Desegregating cinema
Jamaica's in focus but the world's in the frame at ReelWorld **59**

Production Notes from Hollywood 60

THEATRE

Sistah strides
The rock.paper.sistahz festival paves the way for black women in mainstream threatre **61**

BOOKS

Interview: Mary B. Morrison
Steamy *New York Times* bestselling author talks about how Eddie Murphy changed her life and finding sexual freedom on the page **62**

Spring book previews 63

persuade

ASK XANIA
Advice for those with crossed wires in cross-cultural relationships **64**

OH... ONE MORE THING
Award-winning author Austin Clarke takes on immigration and identity — in black and white **66**

Morgan Campbell

Morgan Campbell examines his personal relationship with Joseph Pannell, the man in the middle of an attempted-murder case that spans two countries and nearly four decades. The winner of a 2003 National Newspaper Award for sports writing, Campbell currently holds a job many men can only dream of — sports reporter for the *Toronto Star*. His work has appeared in *KING*, *SLAM*, and *The Source*, as well as on CBC Radio. This is his first appearance in *Sway*.

Heather Greenwood Davis

Heather Greenwood Davis has been a journalist and freelance writer for more than 12 years. In that time, her work has been featured in the *Toronto Star*, *Elle* Canada, and *Style at Home*. In this issue, she contributes her talents to *Sway*'s Power section.

Gillian Downes

Gillian began her career in journalism more than 15 years ago. In 2000, she launched www.impossiblediva.com, Canada's first fashion and beauty e-zine for Afro-Canadians. She followed that up with the recent opening of B.Skin (Brownskin) Bath & Beauty, a boutique located in Toronto's King West Village. Gillian hopes to one day write the great Canadian novel (after opening several B.Skin locations across Canada).

Ashante Infantry

Ashante Infantry is currently the jazz reporter for the *Toronto Star*. Her writing has appeared in many North American publications. In this issue of *Sway*, she takes a look at what's hot during this year's ReelWorld Film Festival.

Michelle Lyte

Fashion stylist Michelle Lyte's career began as an assistant on music videos. As her passion for the industry grew, she got involved in the film industry, working on such films as *Lie With Me*, *Martin and Lewis* and *Second String*. Today, Michelle is the exclusive stylist for MTV Live on-air personalities. She's lent her expertise to several magazines, advertising campaigns and fashion shows. In this issue she goes for the gold in our spring fashion spread.

Moo

As a five-year-old, David Moo King would sketch stick figures of people, pretend to take their pictures and pull the drawings on scraps of paper out from the back of his grandfather's Kodak. Today, he's one of the rising stars of Canadian photography. His work is sexy, edgy and graphic, still using sketches to block fashion shoots for campaigns and editorial spreads for magazines such as *Flare* and multinational personalities like k-os.

Andrea Thompson

Andrea Thompson is a writer, spoken word artist, media host and arts administrator. She's worked in a variety of forms — producing the CD *One* (nominated for a Canadian Urban Music Award in 2005), hosting CiTr radio's half-hour show *Hearsay*, producing *Telepoetics*, a video-conferenced live poetry series in Vancouver and acting as Executive Director of the Edgewise Electrolit Centre. Andrea's writing has been included in magazines, literary journals and anthologies across Canada. She is currently the Marketing and Communications Manager at the League of Canadian Poets, and is the host of season two of the 13-part television series, *Heart of a Poet*, airing on Bravo this fall.

Xania

Advice columnist Xania (a.k.a. Gentle Aura) is a Canadian multimedia artist who specializes in photography and writing. During her seven-year tenure in the industry, she has successfully established Xania Enterprises, and launched two photography websites (www.digitalphoetics.com and www.ellebug.com). She is also involved in the ongoing marketing of a children's creative workshop, One Image, One Mind. She has written for several newspapers, magazines and e-zines across North America. You can catch her hosting late-night radio shows Soulfusion Express (Tuesdays) and F.E.A.R. Edit (Fridays) on CKLN 88.1 FM.

Sway

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

PUBLISHER
Cheryl Phillips

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR
Alan A. Vernon

ART DIRECTOR
Tyler Clark Burke

EDITORIAL

EDITOR
Jon Sarpong

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Edward Keenan

CONTRIBUTORS:
Carol Allen, Norwayne Anderson, Pamella Bailey, Morgan Campbell, Austin Clarke, David Clemmer, Heather Greenwood Davis, Gillian Downes, Catherine Farquharson, Sarah Haywood, Marsha Henry, Patrice Lawrence, Sean Liburd, Michelle Lyte, Kristine Maitland, Jordana Maxwell, Joan Melanson, Moo, Dave Morris, Jane Musoke-Nteyafas, Tokunbo Ojo, Tabassum Siddiqui, Mara Subo, Taz Hair Co., Andrea Thompson, Keenon Vaughan, Mary Wiens, Xania

PROOFREADER
Lynda Spark

EDITORIAL ENQUIRIES
416-596-4395; letters@swaymag.ca

GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

SENIOR DESIGNER
Bradley Reinhardt

GRAPHIC ARTISTS
Adam Harris, Kelly Kirkpatrick

PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Mirella Torchia

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR
Tony Lei

WEBSITE

DIRECTOR OF ONLINE OPERATIONS AND SITE DEVELOPMENT
Leslie Andrachuk

SENIOR ONLINE GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Kelly Payne

SALES AND MARKETING

SALES REPRESENTATIVES
Maxine Cadogan, Ophelia Amase-Emijjo, Chris Gibbs, Natalie Hope, Elsa Sewell

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
Dave Frattini

ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES
416-596-4395; advertising@swaymag.ca

ADMINISTRATION

CONTROLLER
Andrew Grieve

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
Connie Fancy, Mark Ratcliffe; distribution@swaymag.ca

VP & GROUP PUBLISHER BUSINESS VENTURES
Carol Peddie

Sway welcomes submissions, but is not responsible for unsolicited material. *Sway* is published by Star Media Group, a division of Toronto Star Newspapers Limited.
Entire contents property of Sway.

625 Church St. 6th floor, Toronto, ON M4Y 2G1

Printed quarterly on recycled paper. Circulation: 50,000

Sway is endorsed by the Black Business and Professional Association.

Sharpton tied to Thurmond through slavery

"It was probably the most shocking thing in my life," African-American activist and 2004 presidential candidate Al Sharpton said after learning family members of the late Senator Strom Thurmond had previously owned members of his family. Professional genealogists working for Ancestry.com found that Sharpton's great-grandfather Coleman Sharpton was a slave owned by Julia Thurmond, whose grandfather was Strom Thurmond's great-great-grandfather. Coleman Sharpton was later freed. Strom Thurmond, of South Carolina, was once considered an icon of racial segregation. During his 1948 bid for president, he promised to preserve segregation, and in 1957 he filibustered for more than 24 hours against a civil rights bill. Commenting on his one and only meeting with Thurmond, Sharpton offered these words — "It was awkward."

Ghana turns 50

On March 6, 2007, Africans around the globe celebrated the 50th anniversary of Ghana's independence. Ghana became the first country in Africa south of the Sahara to gain independence from colonial rule. Both current president John Kufuor and former U.N secretary General Kofi Annan have given their support to the three main objectives for the year-long jubilee celebrations, which are: to celebrate and commemorate Ghana's landmark achievement as the first country in black Africa to attain independence from colonial rule; to reflect on the evolution, development, achievements and drawbacks of Ghana over the past 50 years; and to look forward to the future, creating a vision of excellence in all fields of endeavour in the next 50 years toward Ghana's 100th birthday as a nation.

British believe racism getting worse

In the UK, a country striving for multiculturalism, over half of residents think racism is getting worse. According to recent stats, the workplace is where discrimination is most keenly felt — one in five people have witnessed racial discrimination at work and almost one in three have experienced sexual discrimination. Most shockingly, 20 per cent of respondents say they would turn a blind eye if they saw racism in the workplace.

Anniversary of law ending British slave trade

On March 25, 1807 the Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade received Royal Assent and became law throughout the British Empire. Although the 1807 Act did not abolish slavery itself, it prohibited traffic in slaves and, as such, was an incremental step towards recognition of the damaging effects of slavery and the abolition of slavery in the British Empire in 1833. Upper Canada — now Ontario — was a pioneer in this movement. In 1793 Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe passed the Abolition Act. This law freed slaves aged 25 and over and made it illegal to bring slaves into Upper Canada, which became a safe haven for runaway slaves from the United States. Simcoe's law also made Upper Canada the first jurisdiction in the Empire to move toward the abolition of slavery.

Farrakhan steps down

Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan has announced that he will soon be stepping down as leader of the religious group. Best known for his part as the organizer of 1995's Million Man March, Farrakhan said he is leaving at a time of great conflict, citing the war in Iraq specifically, and he believes God is angry with leaders who are putting politics and greed above service to others. The Nation of Islam, which promotes black empowerment and nationalism, was rebuilt by Farrakhan in the late 1970s after W.D. Mohammed, the son of long-time leader Elijah Mohammed, moved his followers to mainstream Islam. Farrakhan made reference to the story of the final message delivered by the prophet Muhammad. "Within 80 days ... he expired," Farrakhan said. "I don't see expiration for me, but I do see exaltation."

Trudeau's shining legacy

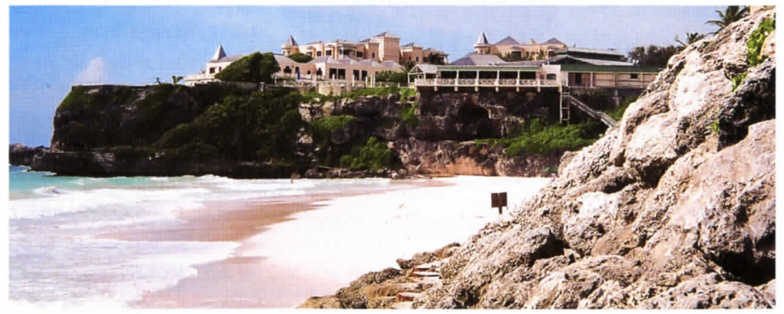
Canada's most respected political figure gets the operatic treatment in *Trudeau: Long March/Shining Path*, a new opera from creative team D.D. Jackson (composer) and George Elliott Clarke (librettist). This new musical work is a meditation on the multicultural Trudeau, the man who declared himself a *citoyen du monde*, who broke bread with Mao Zedong, who shouted "Viva, Castro!" and lived out the multicultural dream he loved in the hotbed that was Montreal. A staged recital at Harbourfront Centre on April 14 gives audiences a rare glimpse into the process of opera before its ultimate premiere.

Diaspora discusses AIDS

The African and Caribbean Council on HIV/AIDS in Ontario (ACCHO) will host a community forum in an effort to generate awareness and discussion of how HIV/AIDS stigma affects people from Africa and the Caribbean in Toronto. In addition, the forum will address what can be done within these communities to end the stigma around HIV/AIDS. The event takes place on April 21, 2007 at the Metro Central YMCA at 20 Grosvenor from 1 to 4pm.

Barbados tops Caribbean tourist destinations

The land of the flying fish has earned top billing as the most desirable vacation destination in the Caribbean and Latin America, according to the World Economic Forum's first-ever Tourism Index. Barbados was ranked 29th overall, while only five other Caribbean nations made the rankings: Jamaica came in at 50; Trinidad and Tobago at 52; Guyana at 100 and Suriname at 108. "The index is not a 'beauty contest,' or a statement about the attractiveness of a country. On the contrary, the index measures the factors that make it attractive to develop the travel and tourism industry of individual countries," said Jennifer Blanke, Senior Economist of the World Economic Forum. Switzerland ranked first overall; Canada ranked seventh.



We spa what we eat

BY GILLIAN DOWNES

We've all heard it said: if you can't put it in your mouth, don't put it on your skin. As more and more people become as obsessed with the word "natural" as they are with beauty, more and more spas are adding food directly to their treatments. From coffee to yogurt, *Sway* takes a look at five spas that are serving up the latest delicious beauty trend.

Angel's Spa and Wellness Centre

Delta Toronto East, 2035 Kennedy Road
416-299-1500 ext. 6173. www.angelsspa.ca.

GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT:
The Royal Lulur Ritual

THE RECIPE: For years, aestheticians have sworn by the calming effects of skin-softening milk, so why not yogurt? Its lactic acid refines pores, soothes, softens and tightens skin. Those who run screaming when they hear the word "acid" (a few too many beauty treatments?) can rest easy. Lactic acid is considered the gentlest of the alpha hydroxyl acids, exfoliating the skin without any sting. This organic treatment includes an exfoliation to even out skin texture, a massage and a banana-leaf wrap.

THE TAB: $145 for 90 minutes

Carmel Spa and Boutique

446 Spadina Road, Unit 101
416-484-1777. www.carmelspa.ca.

GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT:
Coffee Awakening Massage

THE RECIPE: Coffee is one of the most cost-effective spa treatments you can find at your local supermarket and, blended with essences and oils, it's a great way to get rid of skin-dulling impurities, stimulate circulation and reduce the appearance of cellulite. Carmel Spa blends ground coffee with fresh herbs and lavender essential oil before scrubbing away dull, lifeless skin. This treatment pairs exfoliation with massage, so your skin gets twice the treat!

THE TAB: $80 for 60 minutes

The Chakra Spa

1184 Eglinton Avenue West
416-784-3438.
www.thechakraspa.com.

GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT:
Chakra Herbal Ball Wrap

THE RECIPE: "Anything that's natural or from the earth." That's Lisa Julien's summary of what she puts into her treatments. Julien is the owner of Toronto's organic Chakra Spa, where homesick islanders can indulge in several homegrown treats, including the Chakra Herbal Ball Wrap. The first step in this indulgent treatment is a light, plantain gommage. Plantains are dried, grated and made into a paste before being applied as a vitamin-rich body wrap. This treatment is complete with a body-drizzling of warm shea butter and African herbal balls warmed and kneaded deeply into the body.

THE TAB: $90 for 60 minutes

Pantages Spa

Pantages Hotel, 200 Victoria Street
416-367-1888. www.pantagesspa.com.

GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT:
Chocolate Soufflé Wrap

THE RECIPE: Chocolate, that heavenly by-product of the cocoa bean, is the focus of the Pantages Spa Chocolate Soufflé Wrap. This is a full treatment, complete with an exfoliating sugar scrub and a vanilla-infused relaxing massage. The starring element, however, is the thermal chocolate and red pepper mud wrap. This slice of bliss is touted for its slimming and detoxifying effects. Chocolate, the sweetest spa indulgence, rejuvenates and tones the skin. Red pepper, rich in vitamins A and C, is an age-old therapeutic secret; it is often used to treat redness and stimulate circulation.

THE TAB: $175 for 90 minutes

The Rosewater Spa of Oakville

156 Church Street, Oakville
905-338-7724. www.rosewaterspa.com.

GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT:
Milk and Honey Body Wrap

Since the days of Cleopatra, the milk and honey combo has served as nourishment for stressed, overworked skin. Done in a Vichy room, where five rainheads are poised and ready to rinse off the creamy goodness, this thermal treatment involves a warm milk and honey wrap applied to the body after a sugar scrub. As if milk and honey weren't enough to nurture your soul, the wrap is infused with Rosewater's signature organic tea, which contains rosehip, hibiscus and tropical fruits. Known for its hydrating and restorative properties, honey serves as comfort food for the skin when paired with the soothing properties of milk.

THE TAB: $90 for 60 minutes

DIY Facial: The Maintain Composure Facial

BY GILLIAN DOWNES

Putting your best face forward isn't always possible, especially with day-to-day weather changes from hot to cold. During these transitional periods, skin has a hard time maintaining its composure, which often shows in the form of break-outs, redness and dry, scaly patches that always seem to pop up at the most inopportune times. Take a moment to pamper confused skin with the DIY Maintain Composure Facial.

STEP ONE: GET CLEAN

Cleanse skin thoroughly, but not aggressively. During spring and fall, the seasons when skin is more prone to blemishes, ease up on the "scrub and rub" method of cleansing. Instead, opt for a mild, skin-friendly cleanser. Squeeze a small amount of cleanser onto the rough side of a washcloth and glide the cloth gently over skin. People with sensitive skin should skip the washcloth and apply the cleanser with their hands. Make sure to wash off all traces of make-up before you proceed.

GET IT AT THE CORNER STORE:
Dove Sensitive Skin Beauty Bar, $2.79. Available at Shoppers Drug Mart.

BREAK THE BANK:
Chanel Système Pureté La Mousse, $39. Available at The Bay.

STEP TWO: STEAM YOUR SKIN

Fill a sink with hot water and lean over it so that your skin breathes in the steam. Give your skin an additional treat: add a few drops of lemon essential oil to the water. Widely used for its antiseptic properties, lemon is revitalizing and acts as an astringent to help clear blemish-prone skin. Steam your face for five minutes and pat dry.

GET IT AT THE CORNER STORE:
Aromaforce lemon essential oil, $6.49 for 5ml. Available at Loblaws.

BREAK THE BANK:
Acqua Vita organic lemon essential oil, $9.25 for 5ml. Available at www.acqua-vita.com.

STEP THREE: APPLY A MASK

Masks allow the skin to rid itself of impurities without being scratched and scraped. To make a mask, pour a bit of Kaolin or white clay into a plastic or glass bowl. Add warm water to the clay in order to achieve a paste-like consistency. Stir with a plastic spoon. (Metal and wooden spoons often leave trace materials behind.) Apply the mask to your face and neck, being careful to avoid the eye and mouth areas. Leave the mask on for five minutes, rinse with warm water and pat dry.

GET IT AT THE CORNER STORE:
Kaolin or white clay from your local health food store, $4/100g.

BREAK THE BANK:
B. Kamins Diatomamus Earth Masque, $64/130g. Available at www.bkamins.com.

STEP FOUR: SOOTHE YOUR SKIN

Use a light, oil-free moisturizer. Creams and lotions that contain oil can aggravate even the toughest skin, and in the case of nurturing irritated skin, less is more. When possible, choose a hypo-allergenic, perfume-free moisturizer. But if you just can't do without the scent a perfumed moisturizer often leaves behind, choose a mild moisturizer instead. Apply moisturizer to face and neck.

GET IT AT THE CORNER STORE:
Glaxal Base Moisturizing Cream, $7.49. Available at Shoppers Drug Mart.

BREAK THE BANK:
Murad Skin Perfecting Lotion, $33. Available at Sephora.

STEP FIVE: A BIT OF HAPPY

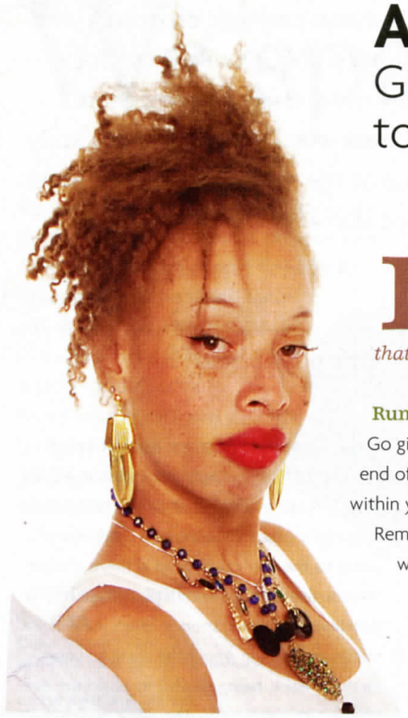
Your entire body responds well to a stress-free lifestyle, so put away the briefcase with the unfinished files, grab a bag of popcorn and crash in front of the tube for a while. Your skin will thank you for the much-needed break.

GET IT AT THE CORNER STORE:
Rent a DVD or pick up free movies on TVO using some good old rabbit ears.

BREAK THE BANK:
Rogers digital Personal Video Recorder, $599 for receiver, (rent for $24.95 a month). 1-888-ROGERS1.

Ask an expert:

Gillian Downes takes your questions to those with the answers



Stacey McKenzie

I've recently lost a lot of weight (80 pounds and counting!) and I finally sprung for a wardrobe that shows off every bootylicious curve. Everyone says I look good, but inside I still feel like I weigh 300 pounds. How can I boost my confidence so that my inside matches my outside?

Runway coach Stacey McKenzie says:

Go girl! You should be proud of yourself for accomplishing your goal of losing weight. Yes; at the end of the day you will have that fabulous body on the outside, but it's more important to be healthy within your mind and body. If you're not healthy in your mind, it has a major effect on you as a whole. Remember: how you think of yourself will eventually become your reality. If I listened to people who made fun of me and called me names, I never would have accomplished anything. In my mind I can be and do whatever I want in life! There is not a day that should go by without you telling yourself, "I am fabulous, I am amazing." It's not about being cocky, it's all about that ego boost! Make sure you thank God for another day!

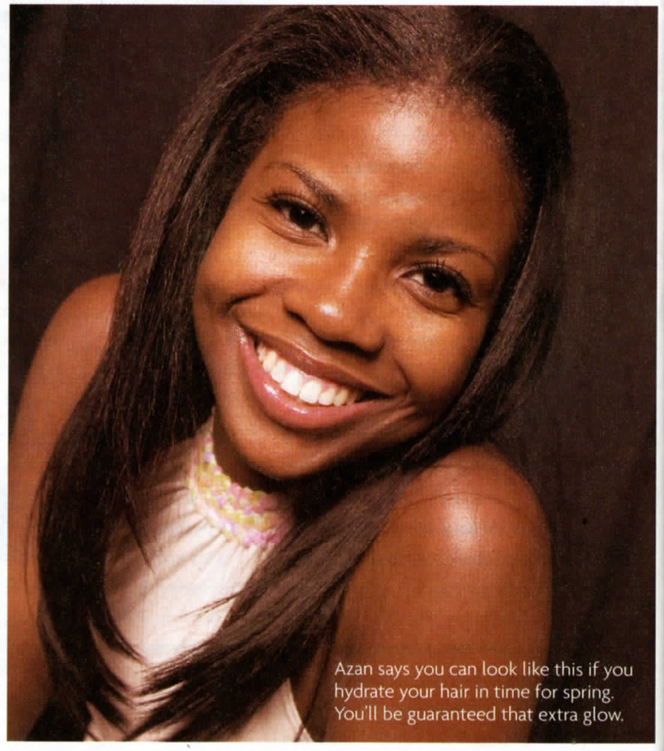
STACEY MCKENZIE IS A JUDGE ON *CANADA'S NEXT TOP MODEL* AND RUNWAY COACH FOR WALK THIS WAY WORKSHOPS. 1-877-378-7359. WWW.STACEYMCKENZIE.COM.

Winter has left my hair dry and shrivelled and I'd like to repair the damage before summer. I've heard that deep conditioning is the best way to hydrate parched hair. How often should I deep condition my hair?

Stylist Khalil Azan says:

I'm all for conditioning hair as often as needed, whether weekly or bi-weekly. There are two different kinds of conditioning treatments: deep, penetrating treatments that you do bi-weekly — these treatments usually require a steam cap or hooded dryer — and weekly treatments that simply involve the use of a good conditioner. You can never have enough moisture for relaxed hair, and natural hair should be treated the same way. In fact, sometimes natural hair is drier than relaxed hair. Pick a conditioner that works for your hair type and stick to a good regimen year-round. If you style your hair, always use a spray-in treatment before using a blow dryer; that way, you'll have a layer of protection between your hair and the heat that can cause even more dryness.

KHALIL AZAN IS THE LEAD STYLIST AT AZAN'S BEAUTY SALON, 126 DAVENPORT ROAD. 416-944-0262.



Azan says you can look like this if you hydrate your hair in time for spring. You'll be guaranteed that extra glow.

Beauty Bargains

Five ways to pamper yourself for less than $20

BY GILLIAN DOWNES

1

Bouquet Bath

1. Lothantique adds to their line of regal bath and body products with the launch of the Jardin De Florette Collection. The gentle scent of morning rose and lily of the valley will have you dreaming you are running through a field of flowers. Lothantique White Flowers shower gel, $18.90. Available at Belle de Provence, 2901 Bayview Avenue, Bayview Village Shopping Centre, 416-512-2767. www.belledeprovence.com.

2

Smellin' Sexy

2. Visions of an eco-friendly bathroom cabinet led Sultry Suds founder Jenna Scott to launch a collection of natural, therapeutic bath and body products three years ago. The latest addition to her collection is Passion solid perfume, a sensual blend of golden jojoba, lavender, rose, larkspur, marigold and essential oil. Sweet and tart, just like the girls who wear it. Sultry Suds Passion Solid Perfume, $10. Available at www.sultrysuds.ca.

3 Savvy Swirl

3. Self-taught make-up artist Heather Farmer knows her brushes. Make-up artists, beauty editors and make-up swathed divas snatch up Farmer's line of professional make-up brushes, so it seemed only fitting that she answer their calls for an equally savvy brush cleaner. Just give your brush a swirl around in the tin. Perfect for babes on the go. Elegant Faces Brush Shampoo, $8. Available at Trade Secrets, 1398 Yonge. www.elegantfaces.com

4 Doll Face

4. Barbie is the ultimate fashionista. So when the plastic princess teamed up with MAC to launch the Barbie Loves MAC collection, it created a match made in beauty heaven. Barbie Loves MAC is a fun, flirty collection full of shimmery pearls and bubblegum pinks. Add some colour to your spring make-up palette with Mac's Malibu Barbie lipglass, $16.50. Available at MAC, 363 Queen W. www.maccosmetics.com

5 Eco-chic

5. Eco-conscious girly-girls can now shower with peace of mind. Canadian Fair Trade Cosmetics serves up eco-chic with its Tashodi Espresso Coffee body bar. Coffee-lovers indulge; this body bar does double-duty as a massage bar, so you can work out those unearthly kinks. Fair Trade Espresso Coffee body bar, $11. Available at Organic Lifestyle by T.h.e. Store, 87 Avenue Road, Hazelton Lanes. 416-921-7317.

Mar
Skin Care Day Spa
885 Progress Avenue, Unit #102, Scarborough, ON
416.438.4321

- Chemical Peel
- Full Body Relaxation Massage
- Hair Removal
- Pedicures/Manicures
- Waxing
- Beauty Care Products
- GIFT CERTIFICATES

... and much more!

ASK ABOUT OUR MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL.

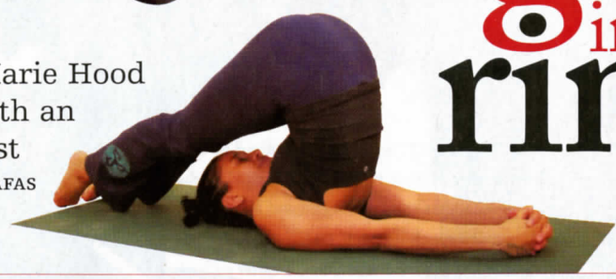
www.marskincarespa.com

CALL FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY
MONTHLY SPECIALS • GIFT CERTIFICATES

Brown girl in the ring

Dancer Anne-Marie Hood creates yoga with an Afrocentric twist

BY JANE MUSOKE-NTEYAFAS



Anne-Marie Hood does The Plow (aka *Halasana)* pose

Choreographer Anne-Marie Hood has been dancing for as long as she can remember. Hood, founder and principle instructor of Brown Girls Yoga, always knew she would be a performer — she just didn't know how, when or where. "My parents understood that I had a talent, but I don't think they knew what to do about it, other than getting me into lessons of various sorts."

As Hood got older, she began to realize that her body was destined for dance. However, she soon came to the realization that the stereotypical Afro-Caribbean dancing styles didn't suit her long, sinewy frame. Refusing to be boxed in, Hood decided she needed to carve out her own niche.

"Yoga has always been a part of my life," she says. "My mother used to do yoga when I was little. I got to it professionally, though, trying to be a better dancer... I never found that spiritual balance with my body in the companies I danced for, no matter how hard I tried. I found myself really missing that. At first I didn't find it in yoga either, until I found a style which appealed to me. The natural transition led me to take yoga classes and eventually teach it for a living."

Hood, whose parents are from Grenada, studied dance and music at various institutions (Saskatchewan School of The Arts, Royal Conservatory of Music, York University). She also undertook the professional training programme at the School of the Toronto Dance Theatre.

"I am first-generation Canadian. The emphasis when I was growing up was on education; but I did get piano and ballet lessons," Hood says. "Growing up, it was all about education, but now my mom looks back and says, 'if I had known what you'd be like, I would've invested more in your talent.' But in their own way, they did encourage it."

After gaining a reputation as a respected artist through stints as a choreographer, composer and dancer with the Backstreet Theatre Company, COBA, Ballet Creole and Arabesque Dance, Hood felt the need to bring her love of dance and yoga to the African-Canadian

community. But she knew that it would be a tough sell unless she could come up with an idea with which ethnic communities outside of the normal yoga community would identify.

"I wanted a name that was poetic and spiritual, one that many could identify with. I came up with Brown Girls Yoga, due to the fact that I have taught classes filled with South Asian women, black women and white lesbians who all identify themselves as brown girls. Also, as far as black women, we come in different shades of brown. 'Brown Girls' is a very broad expression and I leave it to the discretion of those who want to join the class to decide whether or not it connects with their own identity."

Refusing to fall into any stereotype, Hood worked to create a yoga group that transcended the boundaries of race, yet worked to fulfill the needs of African-Canadian women.

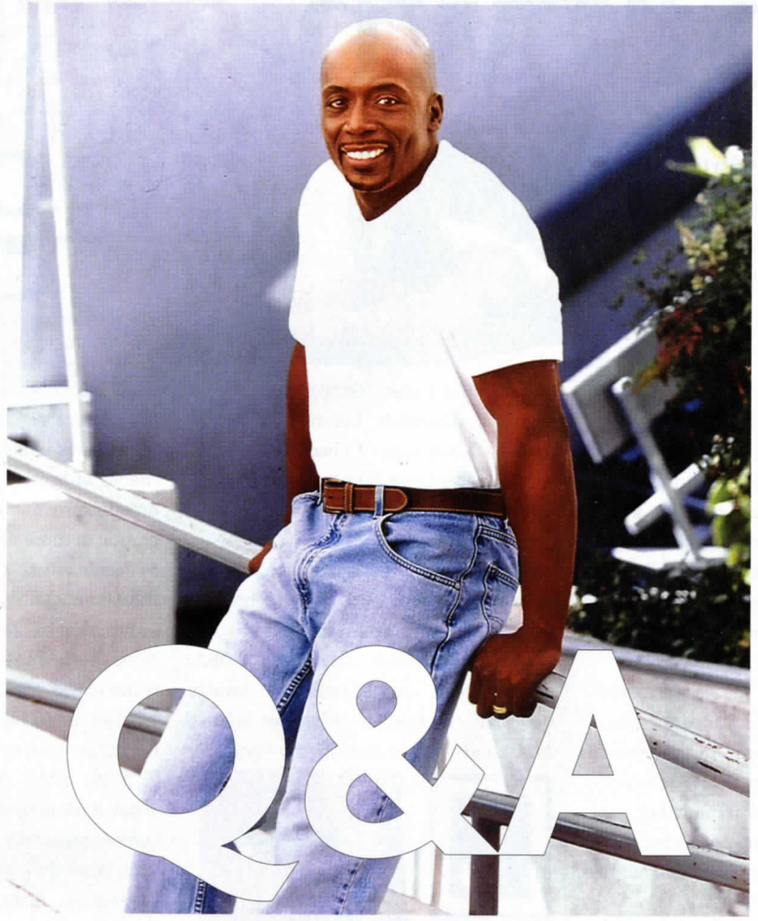
"I did some research and looked at what kind of health problems people of colour, especially women, suffer from. I found that they had higher levels of stress, depression, diabetes and fibroids. Yoga helps to alleviate them, and I've worked to develop my program around these types of concerns."

Brown Girls Yoga now boasts notoriety throughout many ethnic communities and is seen as an inclusive alternative to the many clique-driven studios in Toronto. Although now a successful instructor, Hood encourages others to continue to build upon the niche she has created, and looks forward to the day she when she can participate in another person's unique vision of yoga.

"Rather than following in someone else's footsteps, I would encourage everyone to look down at their own feet. Find something, no matter what it is... but something that really helps to connect to yourself — and just do it."

BROWN GIRLS YOGA, TUESDAY NIGHTS, 7:15-8:30PM, ASHANTI ROOM, 836 BLOOR W. FOR MORE INFO CONTACT ANNE-MARIE HOOD AT AMEE_HOOD@HOTMAIL.COM.

meet: Billy Blanks



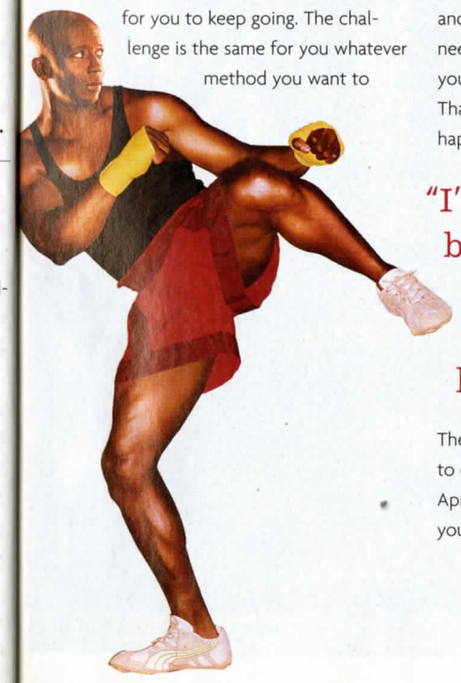
Martial arts Hall of Famer Billy Blanks invented Tae Bo — a fitness regimen combining elements of tae kwon do and boxing — in the 1980s, and has since become one of the biggest names in fitness. He took some time to discuss health, life and family with *Sway*.

Blacks tend to suffer from high cholesterol and hypertension at a greater rate than the general public — is there any specific nutritional/exercise info that you can provide to fight against these health issues?
The first thing we have to do is stop eating a lot of fried foods. But whatever your race or colour, you have to exercise and start cutting out fats from your life. Blacks have a very high rate of diabetes and kidney failure, almost three times the normal rate, and it really comes down to a lack of exercise.

Being the fourth of 15 children, do you think fighting to get noticed in the family made you a stronger entrepreneur?
Not really. My parents treated us all the same, and I came from a very loving and honest working family. The thing for me was growing up in a tough neighbourhood. I had to make myself stronger in order to make it home, ha ha! I just wasn't a good athlete growing up; people are amazed sometimes to hear that. I'm 51 now, but it was my will that made me a better, stronger person both inside and out. My family taught me great values of working within the family — to love, honour and respect one another, and that's probably what I bring to what I do now. Whether it's talking to people every day during workouts or on the street or in classes, you've got to respect yourself, and have faith in yourself. Then you can do anything.

How did you cope with your dyslexia as a child? Did that make you push harder to get ahead?
I didn't realize I had it until I was in my mid-30s. All the time growing up, we used to call people like myself "mentally retarded" or "challenged" — not a good term to use. I was always a pretty shy kid, but inside of me, no matter what anyone told me, I had to do things for myself if I wanted to make my life better. I didn't go out and say, "I want to be an actor" or "I'm going to get fit now, so I can have a car and a house and all the things that might come along with success." That wasn't important to me in the least. I just wanted to better myself and make myself feel good, and not have any negativity surrounding my goals and dreams and passions.

Do you think you inspired the whole celebrity workout craze? It wasn't until the '80s that we saw the whole trend of personal trainers.
I'm definitely lucky to be part of the celebrity workout craze — I've almost become one, if you will, by people every day doing the workouts, and telling people themselves. I didn't set out to be famous or a celebrity, but that's sometimes what happens. I certainly don't consider myself anything above anyone else, and I never have. The point is, though, that there are very few people who are doing something different. I was the first to have the Tae Bo system, and I've been blessed that people are still very much enjoying it. Most of the workouts and exercise methods out there are just putting a twist on something that was started a long time ago. They add one or two things here, updated music, older music, things that can incorporate popular culture, but it's the same basic training: eat right, exercise properly. That's the very basic elements to keeping fit. Everything else is just lights, glamour, fads and so forth. Whatever works for you to make you feel good, and to keep you doing it, is great in my mind. But don't lose sight of the basic needs your body wants, and your mind and spirit need for you to keep going. The challenge is the same for you whatever method you want to choose. On my DVDs, I'm all about that — you've got to do it every day, you've got to work at it, it's a lifestyle change.



Who were your favourite celebs to train with?
I love Brooke Shields. She's definitely one of my favourite people. She's great to be around, and warm and kind. She has a good soul and a great spirit.

You've been married since 1975 to your white high school sweetheart at a time when interracial marriage was probably still pretty socially risky? How did you deal with that? And to what do you attribute your successful marriage?
I never saw colour. I only had love, faith in the Lord, and just did what was right. I let other people around me have their own minds and views, but together, my wife and I were always separated mentally from what others thought. You've got to have faith in each other and faith in your heart and mind. Don't let others bring you down, it's just energy that nobody wants, or needs, or asks for. You have to be able to see the spirit of each other, not the colour.

Most people start working out in January, and then by mid-year, they might taper off. What advice can you give to get people to stay with it?
Keep going, keep going, keep going. It's not going to be easy. Easy is just stopping exercise and eating what is right and what your body needs. Don't do Tae Bo to train just your body, you gotta train your mind, your will, your soul. That's the challenge. The body structure will happen naturally, but you gotta keep going.

> "I'm definitely lucky to be part of the celebrity workout craze — I've almost become one."

The body will do anything you train your mind to do. When you feel like you're slipping in April and May or in the summer, step it up, so you don't lose that focus.

www.drlbrown.com

SHOW OFF your smile

LANCELOT A. BROWN
dentist

94 Cumberland St., Suite 512
(Bay/Bloor area)

Call for a complimentary consultation
416.922.9040
smile@drlbrown.com

NEW PATIENTS WELCOME

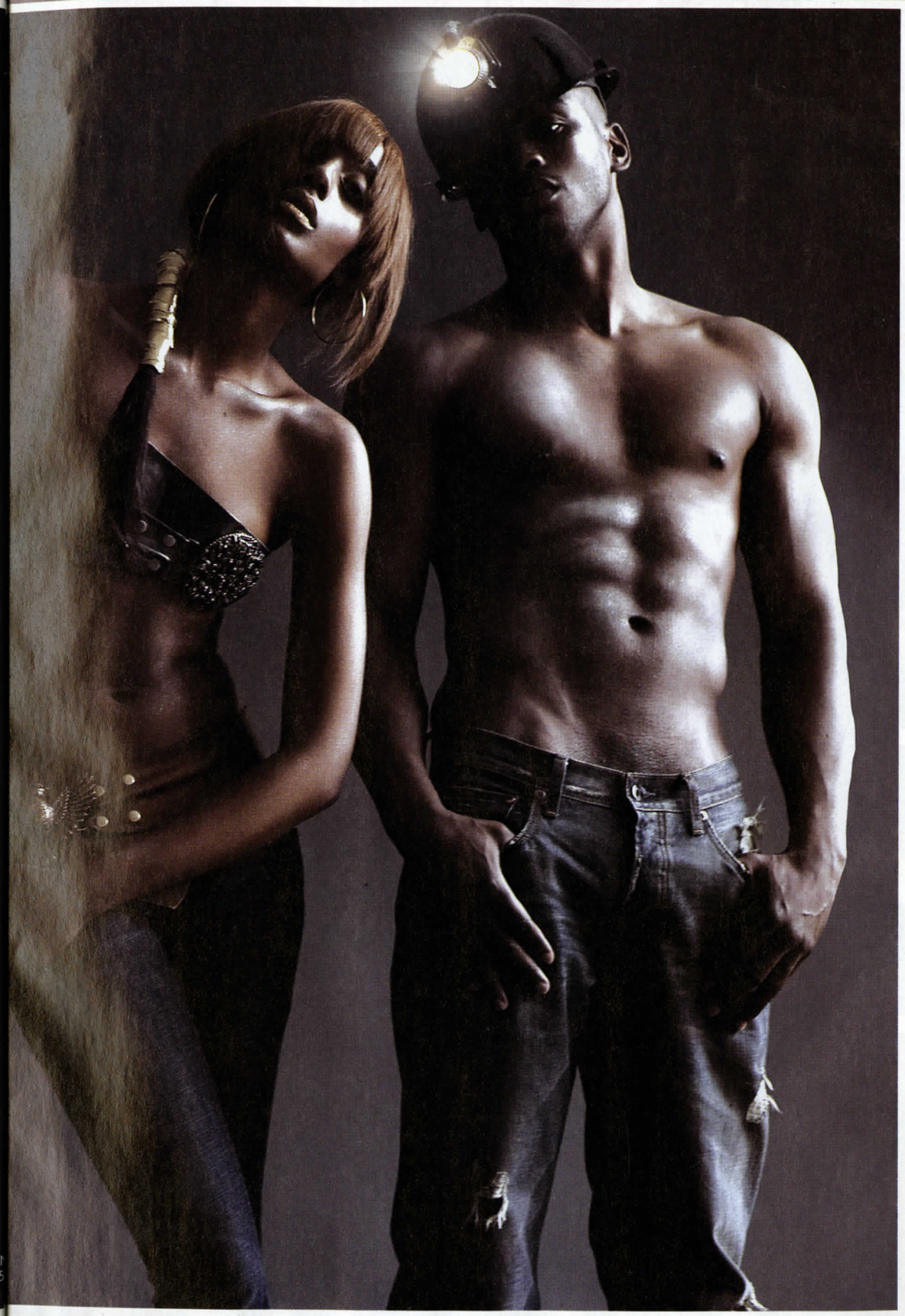
Diggin' it

Is it Toronto 2007 or the Klondike 1897? This spring it's all about mining for metallics: glittery golds, sleek silvers and bold bronzes. Look for shimmer and sheen everywhere you turn, from trenches to Ts. Stake your claim because there's never been a better time to be a gold digger!

ARTHUR MENDONÇA SILVER LAME MINI TRENCH $750, HOLT RENFREW. MARA HOFF LEOPARD BIKINI BOTTOM $195, TNT BLU CONCEPT. DOLCE & GABBANA PLATFORM $825, HOLT RENFREW.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Moo STYLIST: Michelle Lyte for Judy Inc. CONCEPT: Alan A. Vernon HAIR & MAKEUP: Jordana Maxwell for Judy Inc.
MODELS: NAM Management Inc. SPECIAL THANKS: Norwayne Anderson, David Clemmer PROPS: Hand Props Inc.

HER: DIANE VON FURSTENBERG GOLD LEATHER TRENCH $1,495, HOLT RENFREW. EARNEST SEWN JEANS $230, TNT BLU CONCEPT. CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN GOLD STRAP PUMP $895, HOLT RENFREW. GOLD HOOPS $2.90, H&M. **HIM:** JEANS $19.97, WAL-MART. WORKBOOTS $24.92, WAL-MART.



THIS PAGE: ANNE KLEIN SILVER TRENCH $575, HOLT RENFREW. MARA HOFF LEOPARD BIKINI TOP $195, TNT BLU CONCEPT. BALENCIAGA BRON FIT CAPRI PANTS $425, HOLT RENFREW. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** MOSS MILL BRONZE BELT $195, TNT BLU CONCEPT. MOSS MILL GUNMETAL BELT $195 CONCEPT. EARNEST SEWN JEANS $230, TNT BLUE CONCEPT.

SATIN SKIRT WITH BOW $279, HOLT RENFREW. SILVER BANGLES $9.90, H&M. GOLD BANGLES $9.90, H&M.

THE BOSS

Tamia, Canada's R&B golden girl, talks about her sexy new album, motherhood and life with NBA superstar Grant Hill

BY JON SARPONG

THE LIGHTS DIM, THE music begins, and Canadian songstress Tamia takes the stage. She looks stunning. But there's more to her than meets the eye. The sultry R&B singer proves this, during a recent Toronto appearance to promote her most recent recording *Between Friends*, as she displays the vocal talent and charisma that first brought her international recognition. For Tamia, it feels great to be back in the country that originally developed her musical abilities, and to witness the increase in opportunities for Canada's emerging artists.

"At the moment, I think Canada's music scene is absolutely amazing," says the Windsor, Ontario–born Tamia. "There is just so much opportunity and there are so many more outlets for discovery than there were just a few years ago. When I was growing up, I always felt like you had to go to the States to become famous. But now, Canadian artists can decide whether or not they want to go to the States — and if they decide to stay home, they can still have a great career."

Tamia knows first-hand the emotional difficulty of leaving home in order to pursue a career in the recording industry. She got an early start in the music biz, singing on "You Put a Move on My Heart," the first single from super-producer Quincy Jones' 1994 hit album *Q's Jook Joint*.

"Being away was difficult at first," she says. "But Quincy really taught me a lot about the industry and life. Early on, he kept instilling the value of ownership — I mean, he owns everything he does, and he kept telling me to keep that in mind. His lessons were something that I remembered when I decided to venture out on my own."

After carefully charting the course of her career with major label releases in 1998 (*Tamia*), 2000 (*A New Day*) and 2004 (*Still*), Tamia finally decided that it was the right time for her to take complete control of her livelihood.

"With my last album I was frustrated with certain things," she says. "I didn't have the control that I wanted; I think the most bothersome thing was that the release date kept getting pushed back. With this album, I made sure that I was the boss."

Between Friends is wholly owned by

Plus One Music Group, a record label Tamia founded that works in partnership with her long-established publishing company.

"It took me a bit of time in the industry to realize that if you want to be the one who determines your image and you want to call the shots and be in control of your life, you have to be the boss," she says. "I think it was just more of a natural progression for me. I've been in the industry since I was 17, and so I've really been directed and told what to do. But if you are ever in a position to own the thing which you are creating and be in control of your life, I think you have to go for it."

And her entrepreneurial drive for success seems to be paying off. Listeners in Japan, South Africa and the UK have made *Between Friends* one of the year's fastest-selling independent releases. Tamia believes that the accessible sound and mature style of the album reflect her growth as an artist and connect well with the fans who have supported her since her early recordings.

"I really just went into the studio and recorded songs that I was feeling at the moment. I was just in a grown and sexy mood," she laughs. "I really wanted to do songs that allowed me to sing, but that were fun as well. This is a CD that you can listen to from start to finish, it's almost like riding a wave; there are different types of movements, emotions and feelings. I wanted this album to reflect who I am now; I'm a wife and a mother, and I know most of my listeners are in the same place as me."

Married life has been good to Tamia. She wed superstar NBA forward Grant Hill in July 1999. In 2002, the couple welcomed their first child, Myla Grace. Tamia is the first to admit that motherhood has helped give her a new understanding of herself. "There's a strong confidence that you have in yourself after you've had a baby," she says. "You feel like you're a woman because you've created life, and now you're responsible for someone else."

The constant support of her husband has also helped to build strong family ties. Through devotion and commitment to their relationship, the two prominent figures have managed to maintain a solid bond in the midst of two very hectic schedules.

"Everybody always asks me how Grant and I do it — how do we maintain any kind of sanity with our busy schedules?" she says with a smile. "My husband is in the NBA and he's traveling all the time. And with my career I'm always working; but we've figured out a system that works for us. Mind you, people forget that my husband is off for nearly half the year. There are literally months where we spend every day together and, then, by the time the season starts up again, we're both glad to give each other a little space."

The much-admired power couple manage to put their time together to good use by actively involving themselves in large charitable campaigns. The Tamia and Grant Hill Foundation works toward building and bettering schools; providing scholarships for at-risk youth and assisting non-profit agencies and churches. For Tamia, the opportunity to help those who can't help themselves is its own reward.

"Right now, my husband and I are involved in a lot of charities," she says. "We are proud to lend our names to things that will help the less fortunate."

The duo has also donated their extensive collection of African-American art to be exhibited in museums across the US. "The art is absolutely beautiful. I'm really pushing to bring this to Canada. Art can help you believe in something greater than yourself and sometimes we need that."

Happier with her decision. Sales of *Between Friends* have already topped 90,000 units in the US and Tamia is working feverishly to maintain the early success of the album.

"Right now, we're working on putting together a US summer tour with some other performers. I'm moving into heavy promotion of my album and will be doing a lot of TV appearances. Everything that is happening right now is amazing."

"It took me a bit of time in the industry to realize that if you want to be the one to call the shots, you have to be the boss."

This sentiment was no more true for Tamia than in 2005, when the singer was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. "It was devastating at first, mostly because I didn't actually know what multiple sclerosis was. I took the time to inform myself on exactly what it was, and realized that it was actually treatable — although not curable — and that it is something that can be managed. I believe you just play the hand you're dealt, and we have definitely been blessed. What changed most was the way I treated myself. I knew I had to become more health conscious. If I have to have a good lunch, I make time for it — I make time to take care of myself."

Although the diagnosis was a shock, the question of whether the illness would limit Tamia's musical ambition was a non-starter.

"A lot of people ask me whether I ever wanted to stop singing and performing after the diagnosis," she says. "To be honest with you, I never entertained the thought of ending my career. I am a singer and a performer, and I wasn't going to stop being myself because of this illness."

Fans of the Grammy-nominated entertainer couldn't be

Surrounded by press, agents and fans, Tamia remains a point of calm within the frenzied crowd. When asked how she has managed to maintain her composure through both the awe-inspiring and turbulent moments that she's experienced, a broad smile stretches across her face.

"I try not to overthink life," she says. "I have goals, of course, but I really try to maintain a sense of balance. I think that the best thing that anyone can do is just learn to take things as they come."

PEOPLE WITH SWAY

the daily lessons define us

Audrey Walters

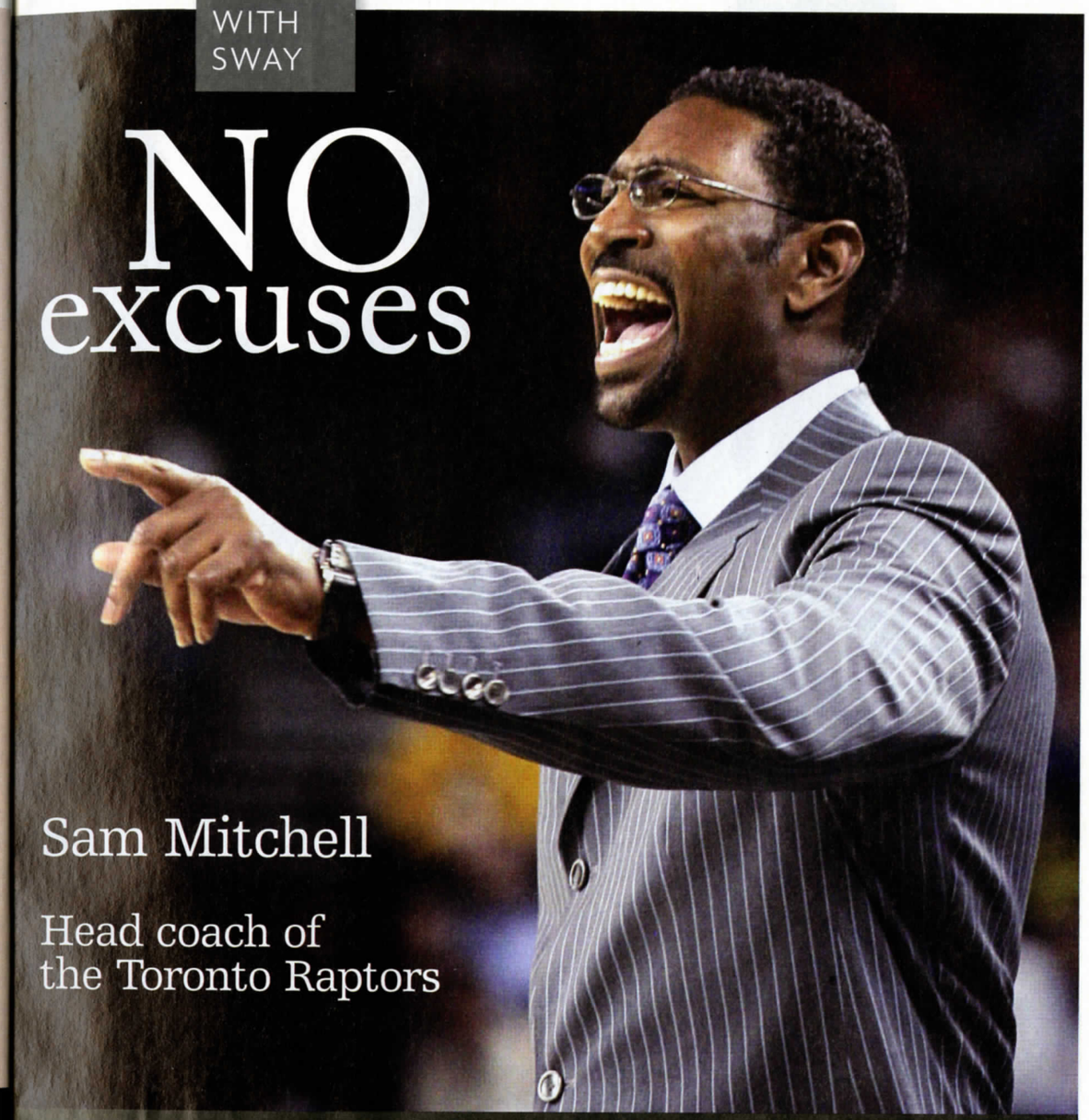
Entrepreneur and president, Black Business and Professional Association (BBPA)

CONTRIBUTION: As President of the BBPA, Walters has focused her efforts on encouraging and supporting the pursuit of entrepreneurship, business, professional excellence, higher education and economic empowerment within the black community. (BBPA's Harry Jerome Awards celebrate 25 years, page 52.)

INSPIRATION: "I could name a number of notables from Rosa Parks to Oprah Winfrey to Marcus Garvey; but in thinking about the person who has inspired me the most, I would have to say my mother. There are some simple things that my mother has said to me over the years that have stayed in my mind. I think that when we talk about parental affirmation, we sometimes think about recognition through grandiose gestures, but truly it is the daily lessons that define us. My mother gave me a sense of who I could be — she gave me love, courage and strength."

PEOPLE WITH SWAY

NO excuses



Sam Mitchell

Head coach of the Toronto Raptors

CONTRIBUTION: Aside from successfully achieving the daunting task of bringing respectability back to Toronto's NBA franchise, Mitchell uses his talents and high public profile to positively affect the lives of at-risk and underprivileged youth by working with charities, church groups and not-for-profit organizations.

INSPIRATION: "Growing up in the [American] South, one of my biggest influences was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. His belief in God, as well as his belief in equality and that every person has something meaningful to bring to the table, was very powerful to me.

"The hard work of my parents also instilled strength in me. My father wasn't a book-educated man, but he was a smart man; while my mother was always very calm and wouldn't argue with anyone. What I loved was the fact that they never complained about having to work hard or their lot in life — they just worked at things the best they could. The other big influence on me was one of my older brothers; he was the first in our family to graduate from college. He died when I was in the ninth grade. When he passed away, I felt like I had something to live up to. He showed me the blueprint for success and from that point on, I gave myself no excuses. That's when I began to dream about playing in the NBA — that's when I began to envision doing something great with my life."

PEOPLE WITH SWAY

Joan Butterfield

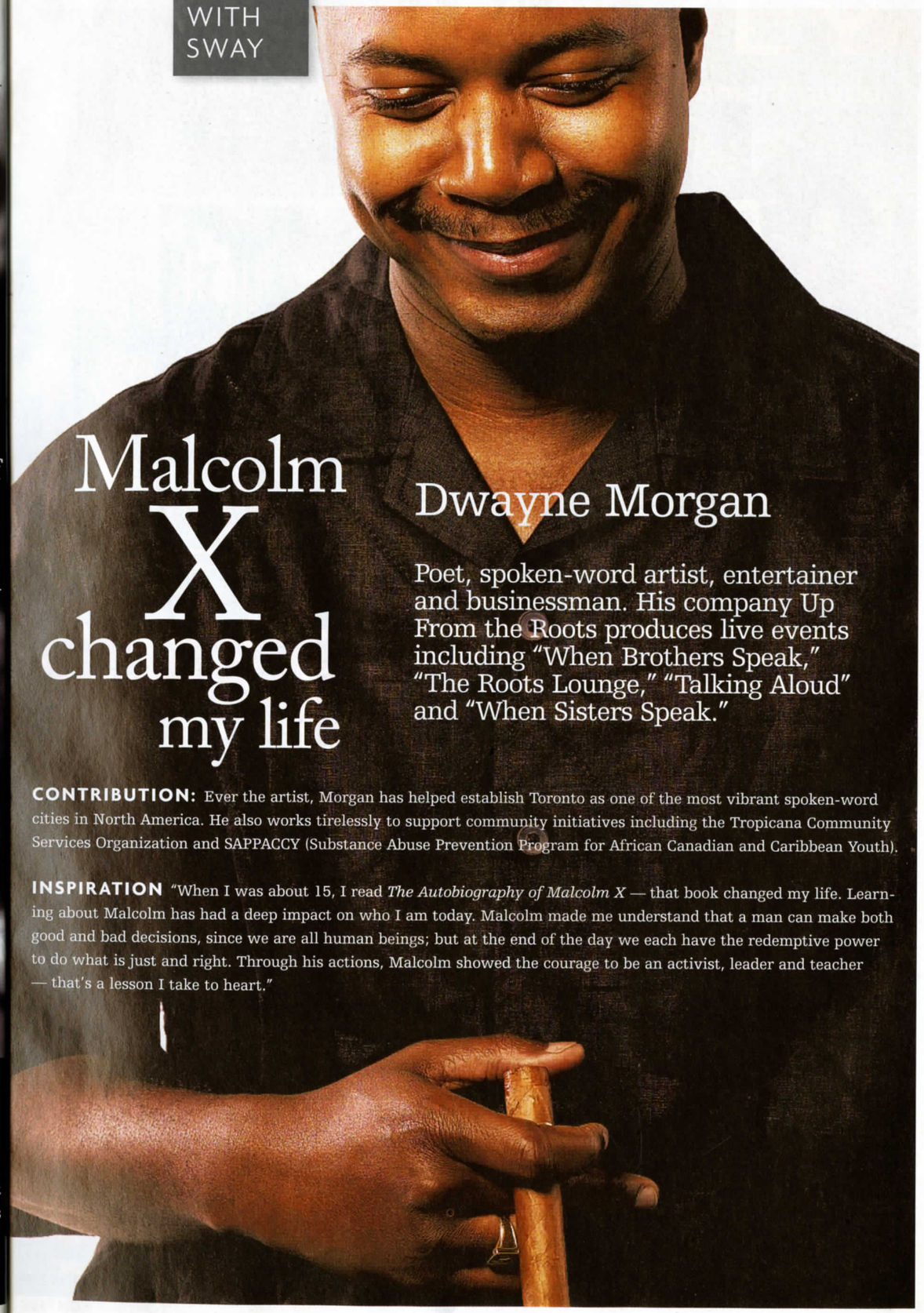
Artist; president of the African Canadian Association of Artists; curator of the Colour Blind art exhibition

New vistas of awareness

CONTRIBUTION: Born in Bermuda and trained in New York, Boston and Toronto, Butterfield's unique artistic style has made her one of Canada's most respected visual artists.

INSPIRATION: "I am inspired by the world around me. The genesis of my creative journey started with the 17th century art form Dimensional Decoupage. After setting sail in this direction, circumstance and events began to occur that brought me to new vistas of awareness. I was awakened to new and expanding potentials that manifested with ease. It is my belief that a work of art is not complete until it has been presented, admired and acquired."

PEOPLE WITH SWAY



Dwayne Morgan

Poet, spoken-word artist, entertainer and businessman. His company Up From the Roots produces live events including "When Brothers Speak," "The Roots Lounge," "Talking Aloud" and "When Sisters Speak."

Malcolm X changed my life

CONTRIBUTION: Ever the artist, Morgan has helped establish Toronto as one of the most vibrant spoken-word cities in North America. He also works tirelessly to support community initiatives including the Tropicana Community Services Organization and SAPPACCY (Substance Abuse Prevention Program for African Canadian and Caribbean Youth).

INSPIRATION "When I was about 15, I read *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* — that book changed my life. Learning about Malcolm has had a deep impact on who I am today. Malcolm made me understand that a man can make both good and bad decisions, since we are all human beings; but at the end of the day we each have the redemptive power to do what is just and right. Through his actions, Malcolm showed the courage to be an activist, leader and teacher — that's a lesson I take to heart."

HOME DECOR

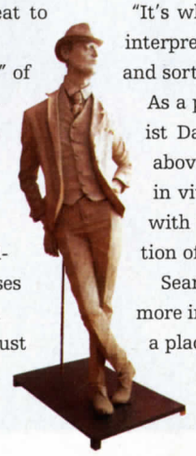
AT HOME WITH TERESE SEARS

BY **TABASSUM SIDDIQUI** PHOTOS BY **CATHERINE FARQUHARSON**

Before Global Television's Terese Sears became a well-known reporter, she was involved in the fashion business. So it comes as no surprise that she's translated her eye for design and good taste into creating a supremely elegant home filled with impeccable artwork and carefully-chosen furniture.

Before Sears and husband Mark Nicholson could even move into their home in Toronto's tony Rosedale in 1999, they had to undertake extensive renovations to restore the 3,000-square-foot, 1920s-era house to its former glory.

"All the things that could go wrong with the renovations did — there were tears, there was screaming, all that stuff," Sears quips. "It was a big undertaking, bigger than we thought, but we got what we wanted. It would have been easier for us to tear it down, but there's something so magical about old brick and old floorboards and staircases that have been reinterpreted for today, so it was great to bring some of that old character forward."



She notes that it took a year and "tens of thousands" of dollars to create the sleek but casual look she was seeking. From there, it was just a matter of filling the space with her art collection and pieces from AT, the Rosedale home-furnishings shop she co-owns with designer Armine Tatosian.

Entering Sears' home is akin to visiting a small but well-appointed art gallery — a long-time collector, she chooses pieces that appeal to her on a visual and emotional level.

"When I started buying, I didn't have any money. I just liked the texture, knowing somebody put that stroke there for a reason. I just like that connectivity with the art, very much in the same way in my job as a journalist, I lov that connectivity with people," Sears explains.

A large resin statue of a very proper-looking fellow (picture below) stands tall in one corner of the auburn-tone living room, an escapee from the British pavilio at Expo '67 that Sears has dubbed Percival ("the was something charming about him that caught m eye," she says). Another striking piece overlookin the 10-seater cherrywood table in the dining roo is a huge horizontal canvas of what looks to be gre white, and silver waves from afar, but upon clos inspection is revealed to be endlessly intricate loo of script, purchased from a Polish artist whom Sea had interviewed years ago.

Sears has a particular penchant for portraits, and some the artwork dearest to her heart reflects her African-Canadia background.

"It's who I am, it's part of my heritage. It's nice to ha interpretations of blackness around you — it's comfortin and sort of joyous," she says.

As a particular favourite, Sears points out Canadian ar ist Darrell McCalla's painting *The Good Book* (pictur above), which depicts a black woman carrying a Bib in vivid colours ("If you look at it, she just looks at y with this quiet inner peace") that she nabbed at an au tion of black art.

Sears isn't precious about her art, however — she more interested in integrating it into a relaxed home tha a place to kick back and relax.

"I think that it's important to walk into a house a feel at home," she notes. "There's a contempora

CONTINUED ON PAGE

EYE WEEKLY
Toronto's ultimate urban lifestyle and entertainment guide.
CITY . FILM . MUSIC . ARTS . CLUBS . STYLE . FOOD . FUN

CLUBS . STYLE . FOOD . FUN . CITY . FILM . MUSIC . ARTS

Read EYE DAILY web-exclusives at EYEWEEKLY.COM

Real Estate News
Since 1970
PROPERTIES IN PERSPECTIVE
REN.CA

Buying a home?
Know your neighbourhood. Put your property in perspective.
search REN.CA today
Pick up your copy of Real Estate News at
GATEWAY NEWSTANDS

FROM PAGE 32

feel to it, and it's eclectic, but comfortable." To that end, her favourite spot in the house is the kitchen/dining room/living room area.

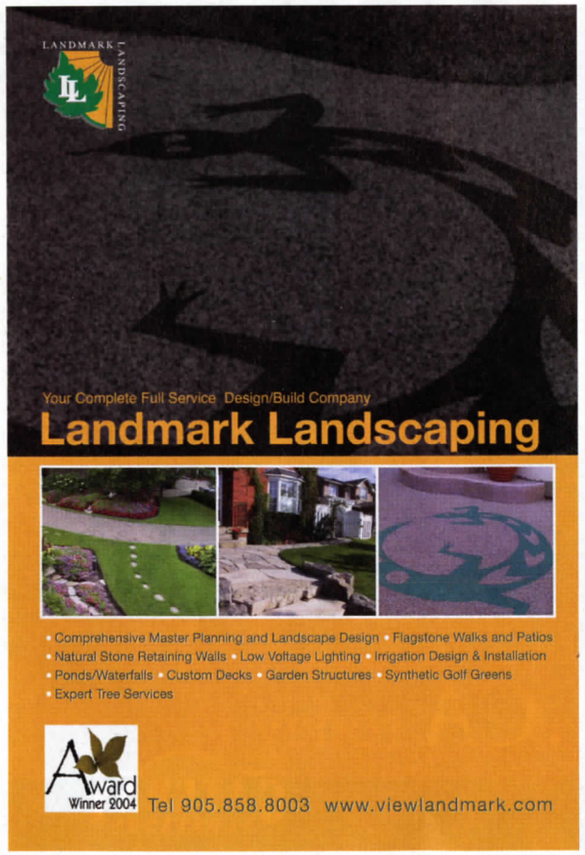
"We spend a lot of time there because it's one big open space. We like to cook, so when we have our family over, it becomes the centre of the home, where we can savour food and each other's company," Sears says.

The living room features a cozy sectional sofa bought 20 years ago from the Art Shoppe and since recovered several times, currently in a dark blue fabric. In the centre of the room is what appears to be a fireplace but is actually a cunning fake — a reflective tealight holder that casts a warm glow over the room. The holder and several other pieces on the shelves around it are from Sears' shop (she's particularly fond of a tall birch vase cast in silvery aluminum by Canadian designer Michael Aram). She and business partner Tatosian source beautiful decor items from all over the world with an eye fo things that are unique and extraordinary.

"I'm constantly moving stuff around, because I get bored," Sear laughs about her decorating style. "And the store is a great sourc of inspiration as to what's new. So I'm always broke," she says.

Tall, refined and elegantly dressed, Sears is the ver epitome of style. So it's not surprising that Global hired h as a fashion expert back in 1989. She's been working the ever since as a news reporter, covering the city she loves. Bu between running around covering stories and helping to ru AT, her life is busy, so she's made a point of crafting a hom that's a place to relax. Nicholson, the chief technology offic of a local firm, has even wired the house with "smart hom controls that pipe in music and manage the lights in variou rooms — it all runs from a central computer tucked away the basement.

"You spend your life working really hard, so I think it great when, after that, you can come home, put your bag an keys down and unwind," Sears says. "My house is about fee ing comfortable where you live. Just coming home and goin 'Ahhh....'"


LANDMARK LANDSCAPING
Your Complete Full Service Design/Build Company
Landmark Landscaping
• Comprehensive Master Planning and Landscape Design • Flagstone Walks and Patios
• Natural Stone Retaining Walls • Low Voltage Lighting • Irrigation Design & Installation
• Ponds/Waterfalls • Custom Decks • Garden Structures • Synthetic Golf Greens
• Expert Tree Services
Award Winner 2004
Tel 905.858.8003 www.viewlandmark.com

Sway

"Design doesn't have to be intimi- dating — everyone can outfit thei home in a unique and appealing way," says **Terese Sears**. Here ar some of her suggestions for mak- ing your space the dream home you always wanted.

1. Do as much research as you can.

"Look at books, go on the Internet... depending on what your budget is, there are things to be had at many price points. I think that no ma ter what you spend, you can find stylish items for your home. So ma things are reinterpreted, or knocked off."

2. Check out the wide array of home and design maga zines out there.

"If you're really looking to update your home, one of the best things to do is tear out magazine pages that you really love and put them i a book, and when you're going out looking for things, bring that boo with you. Even if it's not the exact item, you will have a sense of wha you would like your place to look like, and that will help you in your journey. It's easy to get overwhelmed by it all, but at least if you have these little bits of paper, you can figure out how you would interpre the look for yourself."

3. Buy quality.

"You always have to find a place to put your feet up and your drink down, so surround yourself with items that are comfortable and wel constructed. It's important to find quality pieces. A sofa, for example is an important base — something that's going to last, something tha you can re-cover once or twice over the years. See what styles you like and it'll give you some direction."

4. Find things you love.

"I've bought things over the years that I've loved and didn't work at the time, so I put them in storage or another room. But if you love them, somehow later on, in rearranging the place, they're all of a sud den the perfect thing; you'll just find a place for them. People make mistakes all the time, but if you buy what you love, it's never a mis- take. It's like art — you should buy it because you like it, because it makes you happy."

Hiding in plain view with Kalahari kool

BY MARA SUBO

EGG HUNT

If you're aiming to steer clear of endangered species, these gorgeous faux objets are the politically correct choice. Native craftspeople in South Africa have turned trash into treasure by foraging for the 55 per cent of ostrich eggs that don't hatch. In natural and designer hues, their high-gloss lacquer shine makes them a sophisticated way to inject your home with seasonal flair for Easter.

Ostrich eggs: natural $59, laquered $139, L'Atelier, 1124 Yonge, 416-966-0200

COOL BENCHMARK

The chrome base on this stunning springbok hide–upholstered bench is turning interior designer heads in New York, L.A. and other hip design meccas. Watch for it in interiors spreads in the most popular decorating mags. But you saw it in *Sway* first.

Springbok bench $1725, at Angus and Company, 647 Dupont, 416-537-4104

JUNGLE JAZZ

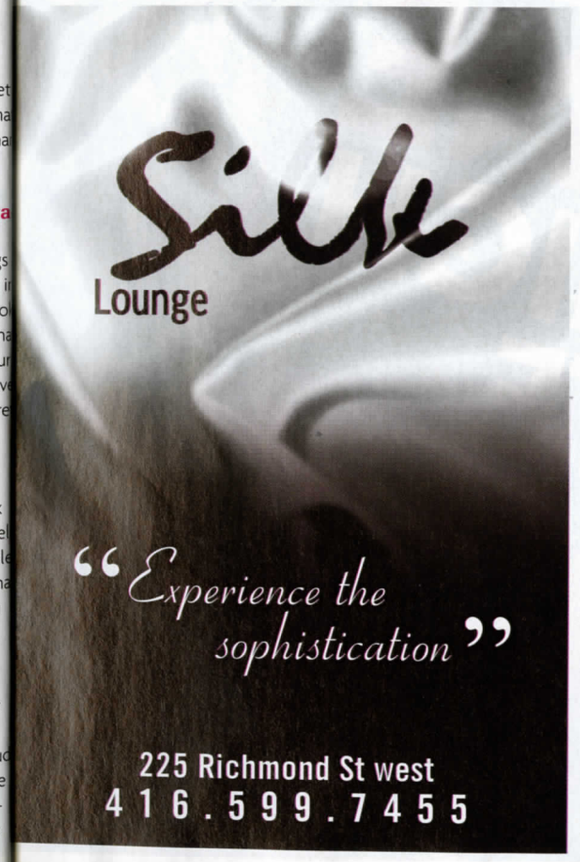
No need to invest thousands in a zebra rug when all you need is a spot of the black and white hide pattern to add the right amount of jungle jazz to any room. Choose from among many pillow designs, including ones with a mane fringe and leather inserts. Note: all hides are culled from nature conservations to ensure sanctuaries don't become overpopulated and underfunded.

Mane zebra pillows $295, available at Absolutely, 1132 Yonge, 416-324-8351

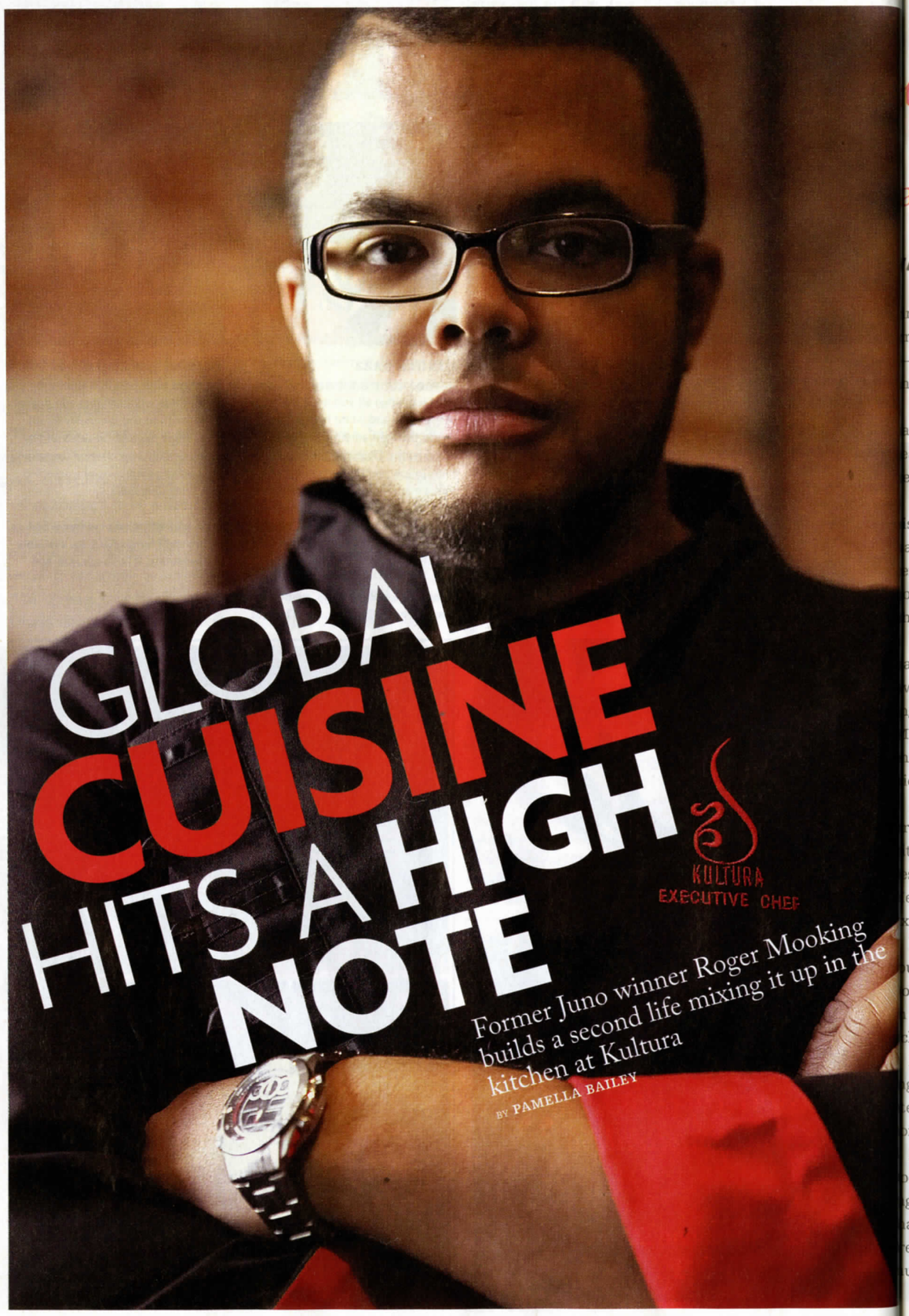
ANIMAL KINGDOM

Modelled after oryx and antelope horns, these woodcarvings add dramatic architecture and symmetry to any room when paired on a sideboard or buffet. Equally evocative of the savannah are lampshades, hand assembled with porcupine quills.

Hand-carved wood oryx horns $54 ea, square quill lamps $269 ea, available at Absolutely, 1132 Yonge, 416-324-8351



Premium Vacations of a lifetime!!
AFRICA • ASIA • SOUTH PACIFIC
SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICA
INDIA & more...
TOURCAN VACATIONS
YOUR PARTNER IN QUALITY
416 391 0334 / 1800 263 2995
tourcanvacations@tourcanvacations.com
www.tourcanvacations.com
SKYLINK HOLIDAYS OFFERS
THE NORTH AMERICAN TRAVELER
ADVENTURE TOURS
Camping Hotel/Lodge based adventures • Small group tours with local transport • Coach Tours • Specialist Family Adventures
The No.1 tour operator to
Europe
Our tours feature affordable vacations for the discerning traveler
416 923 2003 / 1800 262 6818
tours@skylinkholidays.com
www.skylinkholidays.com
SKYLINK HOLIDAYS



GLOBAL CUISINE HITS A HIGH NOTE

Former Juno winner Roger Mooking builds a second life mixing it up in the kitchen at Kultura

BY PAMELLA BAILEY

"There's still a supposition in the minds of people that a chef should be from France, particularly in the hotel environment.... You have to over-perform to achieve, not to overachieve. I realized that going in."

"Music is my point of reference for any creative endeavour," says Roger Mooking, executive chef of Kultura restaurant on King West. Mooking rst came to public attention as MC Mystic of the Juno Award–winning R&B roup Bass is Base in the 1990s. After making his mark in the music industry – touring with James Brown and performing at the Olympics — Mooking now akes culinary music in the kitchen at Toronto's latest ultra-cool resto-lounge.

Kultura opened its doors in August 2006, and has become a hot spot for shionable young professionals. While the swanky interior — plush chocolate ather banquettes, exposed red brick walls, wooden ceiling beams — certainly ts the mood, it's the food that leaves patrons clamouring for an encore.

Delectable cultural combinations fill the menu, such as Jamaican chicken sotto ($12): here a smooth, creamy risotto infused with lemon and coconut alances the heat of jerk-spiced chicken. Another crowd favourite is the Medi-rranean chicken samosas ($11) stuffed with minced chicken, asiago and sage mplemented by sweet, spiced apple gari chutney. The plates are meant for haring, each one providing diners a savory trip across continents.

Music may be his muse, but Mooking, a native of Trinidad, credits the foun-ation of his culinary creations to his upbringing. His Chinese grandfather wned a restaurant in Trinidad and other relatives own restaurants and cater-g companies. "Some of the first food I learned to cook was Chinese food," says Mooking, "roasting chicken, wrapping wantons, making chutneys." And then here were the Trinidadian dishes: "Of course, pilau and curries. In Canada, I cked up the French techniques. Those are my foundations for cooking."

A graduate with top honours from George Brown's Culinary Management rogram, Mooking refined his skills at bistros and French restaurants in the ty before landing a role in the Royal York Hotel's Epic restaurant, the flagship staurant for the Fairmont chain of hotels, under Chef Jean Charles Dupoire. e later moved to Barrio Lounge on Queen East as the opening chef, where he xperimented with small sharing plates in a laid-back dining atmosphere.

Mooking says there are barriers in the restaurant industry for people of co-ur, due to an old-school mentality in the hiring process. "There's still a sup-osition in the minds of people that a chef should be from France, particularly the hotel environment.... You have to over-perform to achieve, not to over-chieve. I realized that going in."

At Kultura, Mooking overachieves by experimenting with the menu, spend-g 80-hour weeks at the restaurant, keenly aware of Toronto's demanding pal-es. "In a second, new restaurants come up and, if you are not relevant, you're ne," says Mooking.

Despite the hard work and long hours, the affable young chef loves what he es, remaining passionate about both food and music. He is currently work-g on a score for Disney when he's not in the kitchen. Mooking feels fortunate at Toronto has embraced his brand of international cuisine. But if Mooking's eativity and commitment to his musical success is any indicator, foodies and usic fans alike can expect a lot more from this rising culinary star.

KULTURA IS LOCATED AT 169 KING STREET EAST, 416-363-9000.

Caribbean Shrimp Appetizer

Recipe by Roger Mooking
Executive Chef of Kultura

20 shrimp (21-25 per pound), peeled and deveined
2 tsp vegetable oil
2 tsp shallot brunoise (finely diced)
1 tsp garlic puree
4 ripe bananas, chopped
2 tsp Sambal Oelek
4 tbsp light soya sauce
4 tbsp water
1 tbsp lime juice freshly squeezed
½ bunch cilantro (coriander) chopped
1 tsp sesame oil
½ tsp honey
Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat a skillet to medium heat and add vegetable oil. Add shrimp in a single layer and sear on one side until lightly golden. Turn shrimp over individually to other side then add all other ingredients (except sesame oil, honey, salt and pepper). Toss to coat. Then add remaining ingredients and toss again. Season to taste. Serve hot.

Serves four.

CANADIAN MUSIC WEEK

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DIGITALPHOETICS.COM

CHUCK D
INTERVIEW PAGE 58

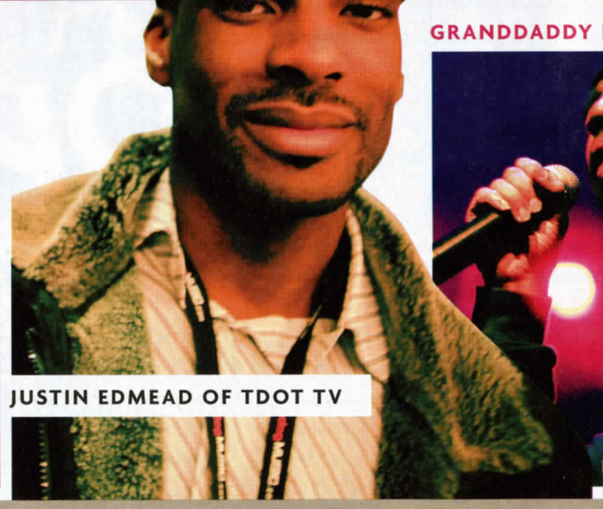
MICHIE MEE

PROFESSOR GRIFF

DJ RED ALERT

FLAVOR FL

DOPE POET THEREASA



JUSTIN EDMEAD OF TDOT TV

GRANDDADDY I.U.

(L TO R) DIRECTOR FRANCES-ANNE SOLOMON WITH TONYA LEE WILLIAMS

FILMMAKER CLEMENT VIRGO

REELWORLD

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SARAH HAYWOOD

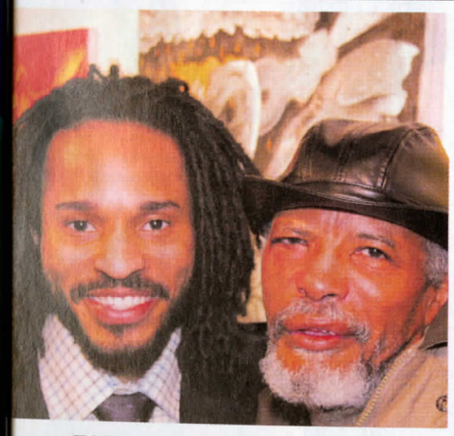
SEE REELWORLD STORY PAGE 59

(L TO R) SONIA FARQUHARSON, NICOLE PEÑA AND GEORGIA FULLERTON

COLOUR BLIND

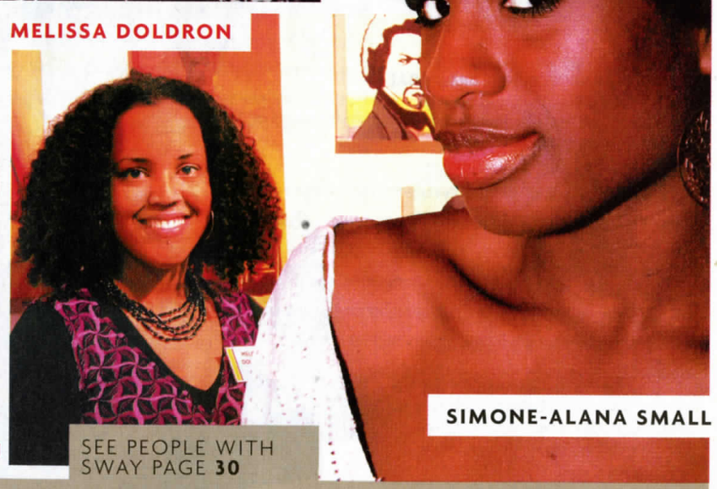
ART EXHIBIT

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEENON VAUGHAN



(L TO R) TAFEWA TURNER AND ATO SEITU

MELISSA DOLDRON



SIMONE-ALANA SMALL

SEE PEOPLE WITH SWAY PAGE 30

EVENTS

Get out!

PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE.
COMPILED BY CAROL ALLEN

THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN COMEDY TOUR
TUESDAY MAY 29
Peace Through Comedy with introductory remarks by Maya Angelou. 8pm. $49-$69 Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe. 416-872-4255, www.ipcomedytour.com

TRUDEAU: LONG MARCH/SHINING PATH
SATURDAY APRIL 14
This staged recital gives audiences a glimpse into the making of an opera. Featuring librettist George Elliott Clarke. 7:30pm. Free. Enwave Theatre, Harbourfront Centre, 231 Queens Quay W. (See story on page 11.)

FIRE FETE 5
SATURDAY APRIL 7
Hosted byThe Champ S.K.F, featuring Iwer George, Fire Ball, Maximus Dan, more. Music by Court Jester, Crystal Vibez, Umba, and guests. 9:30pm. $30. Kool Haus, 132 Queens Quay E. www.ticketmaster.ca.

DIANA ROSS
WEDNESDAY APRIL 11
& THURSDAY APRIL 12
R&B legend comes to Canada. 8:30pm. $58.50-$106, Fallsview Casino Resort, Niagara Falls, Ont. www.ticketmaster.ca.

JOHN LEGEND W/ CORINNE BAILEY RAE
TUESDAY APRIL 17
8pm. $41.65-$71.65. Hummingbird Centre for the Performing Arts, 1 Front E. www.ticketmaster.ca.

Five-time Grammy award winner John Legend has amassed world acclaim after just three short years on the pop scene. His platinum-selling debut album, *Get Lifted*, was released in 2004. Now with a new album, *Once Again*, this R&B singer, songwriter, and pianist has already proven why he is well on his way to becoming one of the greatest performers of all time. British neo-Soul/R&B newcomer Corinne Bailey Rae opens the show.

THE HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS
WEDNESDAY APRIL 11
7pm. $17.68-$63.68. Barrie Molson Centre, 555 Bay view Dr., Barrie. www.ticketmaster.ca.

FIRST FRIDAYS CAREER FAIR & SYMPOSIUM
FRIDAY APRIL 13
6-10pm. Free. The atrium, George Vari Enginee and Computer Centre, Ryerson University, 245 Church. 416-441-0792.

BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA W/ BETTYE LAVETTE
SATURDAY APRIL 14
The Blind Boys of Alabama return to Toront with their thrilling brand of electrified Sout ern soul. 8pm. $49.50-$69.50. Massey Hall, T Victoria. www.ticketmaster.ca.

CHRISTINA AGUILERA BACK TO BASICS TOUR
MONDAY APRIL 23
7:30pm. $55-$95.50, Air Canada Centre, 40 Bay. www.ticketmaster.ca.

UDDY GUY W/ JACKIE GREENE
ATURDAY APRIL 21
e-time Grammy winner, Rock and Roll Hall Fame inductee and a pioneer of Chicago's bled West Side sound, brings the best of e Blues. 8pm. $49.50-$69.50. Massey Hall, 178 ctoria. www.cosmictickets.com.

OHN MAYER
UESDAY APRIL 17
0pm. $43-$70. Air Canada Centre, 40 Bay. ww.ticketmaster.ca.

ONNY ROLLINS
ATURDAY MAY 5
zz music's saxophone colossus brings his legend- sound to the Toronto stage. 8pm. $49.50-9.50. Massey Hall, 178 Victoria. ww.cosmictickets.com.

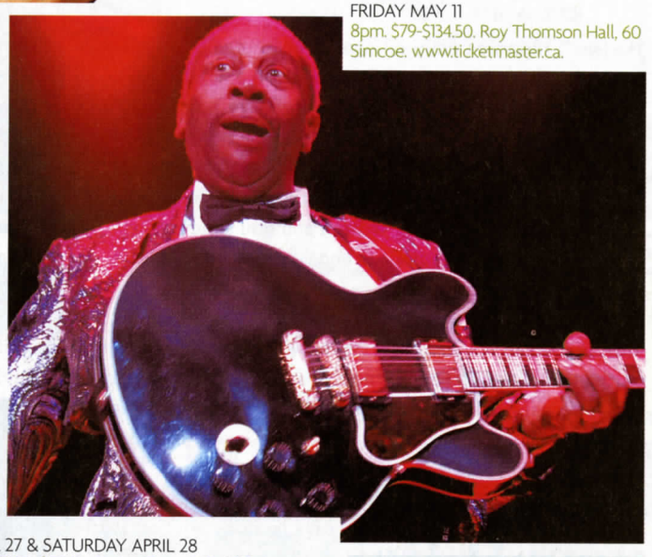
BILL COSBY
FRIDAY APRIL 27 & SATURDAY APRIL 28
Doors 8pm, $63.80-$75.40, Casino Rama, R.R. #6 Rama Rd., Orillia, ON, www.ticketmaster.ca

Actor, producer, activist, author and comedian Bill Cosby is known for delighting audiences of all ages. From his days as the patriarch on *The Cosby Show* (1984-92), to his wide range of commercial endorsements, his approach to comedy has made him a household name for over 25 years.

HARLEM GOSPEL CHOIR SUNDAY MAY 6
8:00pm. $29.50-$34.50. Hamilton Place Theatre, 50 Main S. W., Hamilton. www.ticketmaster.ca.

NEW WORLD STAGE INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCE
WEDNESDAY APRIL 18
TO SUNDAY APRIL 22
8pm, weekend matinee 3pm. $40-$50. Enwave Theatre, Harbourfront Centre. 235 Queens Quay W. 416-973-4000, www.harbourfrontcentre.com/nws
Sizwe Banzi est mort/Sizwe Banzi is Dead, by Theatre des Bouffes du Nord (France), was created at a time when it was required that every black South African citizen over the age of 16 carry an identity book. This Apartheid-era classic, devised by Athol Fugard, John Kani, and Winston Ntshona, continues to resonate 35 years later. In French with English subtitles.

B.B.KING
FRIDAY MAY 11
8pm. $79-$134.50. Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe. www.ticketmaster.ca.



GWEN STEFANI WITH AKON THE SWEET ESCAPE TOUR '07
WEDNESDAY MAY 30
7:30pm. $52.50-$95.50, Air Canada Centre, 40 Bay. www.ticketmaster.ca.

THE NATHANIEL DETT CHORALE
FRIDAY MAY 25
8pm. $22-$41.50; $24 students/seniors. Toronto Centre for the Arts, 5040 Yonge, 416-872-1111. www.ticketmaster.ca or www.nathanieldettchorale.org.
The Nathaniel Dett Chorale Presents And Still We Sing, a dramatic staging, with verse, image and song, of the life-long debate between W. E. B. DuBois and Booker T. Washington regarding the best way to gain full political, civil and social rights regardless of ethnicity.

HONEY JAM AUDITIONS
SUNDAY JUNE 3
2pm, Mod Club Theatre, 722 College. Check www.honeyjam.com for more details.

Black woman on Bay

By HEATHER GREENWOOD DAVI

Meet: Evelyn Ackah, a business immigration and citizenship lawyer at Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP.

Claim to fame: Now entering her ninth year practising law, Ackah, born in Ghana and raised in Vancouver, has an impressive roster of clients and is one of very few senior black women practising full-time in a top Bay Street firm.

The job: "I represent multinational companies with the movement of existing employees and the recruitment of new employees," explains Ackah, 35, who focuses on cross-border executive transfers. She is often called on to help businesses with visa and permanent residence applications, to work with recruiters, and to advise new recruits on tax issues. She can also be found providing written and oral submissions to embassies, high commissions and consulates around the world.

Why: For Ackah it's about helping her clients and seeing a situation through to the end. "There is a sense of satisfaction," she explains. "I have to understand the clients' business and help them find a solution."

Best part: That she's doing something she truly enjoys. "I love the independence of my job," she says pointing out that while her days can sometimes close in on 12 hours, most days she's able to keep it in check. And because the job is flexible she can still do the things she enjoys, including going to the gym and socializing with friends. She is also grateful for the fact that she is spending much of her at-work time with people she likes to be around.

"I really love the people that I work with," she says. "A lot of lawyers don't think about that and it's so important."

Toughest part: "It's very demanding," says Ackah. "It's not a job, it's a career." That means that it doesn't end just because she has left the office. Clients are given her cellphone number and she carries a Blackberry so that she can be reached at any time. "If they are at the border and run into trouble, they know I'm there."

Equally difficult is the fact that there are very few black women in senior positions on Bay Street to whom she can turn for advice or encouragement. "It's challenging. There is such a small number of black women who are partners," she admits. "It is even more important for me to continue practising and advancing in my career so I can be a role model f my younger sister, who is a new lawyer, so that she sees bla women in senior positions in law."

On diversity: "Law schools and law societies in different provinces are putting a great focus on diversity of all kinds within the profession. I think the numbers will only contin to grow. Recently, at a Black History Month reception at th Law Society of Upper Canada in Toronto, I was very please to see a great turnout of black lawyers from different firms and businesses coming together to celebrate the accomplish ments of blacks in law and the legacy we have built upon. was very inspiring."

Biggest myth: I would say that people think that practising law is all courtroom drama and quick solutions that are wrapped up neatly and conclusively in a short period of time. Generally the legal process takes much longer and is significantly more complicated than we are led to believe o television.

New Canadians, Aboriginals & Visible Minorities
JOB AND EDUCATION FAIR
April 23, 2007 · 10:00 TO 7:00 PM
METRO TORONTO CONVENTION CENTRE

Exhibitors are employers, educational institutions, professional associations, employment information providers and government departments. Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association, Humber Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning, Staples Business Depot, ING Direct, Toromont Industries Inc., Pivotal Action Force, Centennial College, York University, American Airlines, City of London, Tayco Panelink Ltd., Ottawa Police Services, Canadian Security Intelligence Service, Thompson Rivers University- Open Learning, Canadian Premier Life Insurance, ADM Agri-Industries and Toronto Catholic District School Board are among the many organizations in attendance.

JOB SEEKERS
BRING RESUMES
BUSINESS ATTIRE
REGISTER NOW AT
www.nasinstitute.com
ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND
TTC - UNION STN
COST $3.00

Special thanks to our event sponsors:
Toronto Community News · jobpostings.ca · TorontoJobs.ca · Job Paper

Sway services

HONESTY & RELIABILITY IS OUR STRENGTH
Professional Technicians to help you keep the HEAT on all winter and keep COOL all summer.
FAWN HEATING & COOLING REFRIGERATION
$79.95 TUNE-UP SPECIAL +GST
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
• Heat Pumps • Oil to Gas Conversions • Air Conditioners
• Water Heaters • Electric Air Cleaners • Duct Cleaning
HOME ENERGY DEALER Satisfying all your Heating & Air Conditioning Needs
983 Lakeshore Rd, E., Mississauga • www.fawnheatingcooling.701.com
416.727.3144 • 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE 7 DAYS A WEEK

Quick DIVORCE
Lawyer Assisted
From $300
ABM Legal Services Ltd.
705 Lawrence Ave. W Unit# 205
Close to Lawrence West Subway Stn.
(416)849-4200
(Open 6 days: Mon-Sat)

RENTING?
If your rent payment is $950 or more, Picture yourself owning your own home now. Write your next rent cheque and invest it in yourself! Call me and I can show you how
WINSTON HEMMINGS
Sales Representative
ROYAL LEPAGE
Office: 905-338-3737
Cell: 416-723-6526
www.winstonhemmings.com

Gail Regan
sales representative
Sutton Group Realty Inc. Brokerage
Office: 905-619-9500
Fax: 905-619-3334
Direct: 416-518-4127
www.gailregan.com

MOTHER ANNELL
SPIRITUALIST & PSYCHIC READER FOR CLAIRVOYANT READINGS, HEALING, "BAD LUCK" RELATIONSHIP PROBLEMS, HOLDING JOB OR JUST ANSWERS IN GENERAL, WORDS OF COMFORT & GOOD CHEER
CALL 416-837-7002 FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT
ALL MATTERS ARE STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

DNA PATERNITY TEST
Who is Dad? Know for Sure!
Court Admissible Greatest Accuracy
(416) DNA-TEST (362-8378)
In Our Office (Mon-Sat) or Your Home (7 Days a week)
www.dnatest.com Established 1989

REAL ESTATE

3BE

BY HEATHER GREENWOOD DAVIS

They could've bought a car, some jewellery or even kept their cash in the bank. Instead, at the ripe old age of 25, Ryan Dummett, Peter Brandon and Justin Phillips (son of *Sway* publisher Cheryl Phillips) became homeowners. By 26, they were landlords.

It's all a part of a plan that men, who've been friends since school, formed as university dents years ago: they would build we by purchasing properties across the that could bring in rental income. were talking about it for a while," Dummett. "We wanted to get into estate, buy homes and just build up assets."

Dummett notes that even before had the money to carry out their pl the group had a clear vision. They refe to themselves as 3BE — short for T Black Entrepreneurs — exactly what intended to become.

And they made sure to get an educa that would help them realize their dre all three studied business, Dummet Canisius College in Buffalo, Phillip Howard University in Washington Brandon at the University of Windsor

Eighteen months ago they were able o purchase their first property — a ,700-square-foot, three-bedroom house n Oshawa.

"We all drew on our personal savings, scraped it together and bought the first lace," recalls Dummett. "We were a ittle bit scared in the beginning because t was such a big investment, but we had he idea and we had the plan and we just walked in and just basically did it."

None of the money they used for the down payment came from a parent. In fact, their parents weren't alerted to the $250,000 commitment until it was over. They were a little bit shocked, but at the same time they understood that it's a great investment and they trust us and they support us," Dummett says.

To make up for their lack of experience, the three men invested a lot of time researching the area.

"It was near a university, so we knew we would have a steady flow of people and potential residents and, because it's a growing university, we knew that in the future there would be a lot of traffic coming through there. Plus these were brand new homes built by Tribute homes, so we knew they were good quality," he explains.

The house's value has already increased by about $50,000. It is currently being leased and bringing in rental income that helps to cover the mortgage.

But it isn't an investment that runs itself. All three investors have learned to become active property managers.

"The hardest part is basically just maintaining the home," admits Dummett, "every now and then stopping by the property, making sure it's OK, touching base with the client.... It's busy and, as the portfolio continues to grow with more homes, that's going to be a challenge as well. But because there are three of us, it makes it a little bit easier. "

> "OUR GOAL IS TO BUILD A PORTFOLIO OF HOMES, TO BUY AT LEAST ONE HOME A YEAR."
>
> — RYAN DUMMETT

The challenge wasn't enough to stop them from doing it again.

A year and a half after taking that initial plunge the group now own a second property — a loft in downtown Toronto — and they expect to purchase more.

"Basically our goal is to build a portfolio of homes," he explains, "to buy at least one home a year. That's our goal, short-term. Long-term, maybe we will move into something more like a small condo of maybe 20-30 units in a building where you can keep them all in the same area and generate income right there."

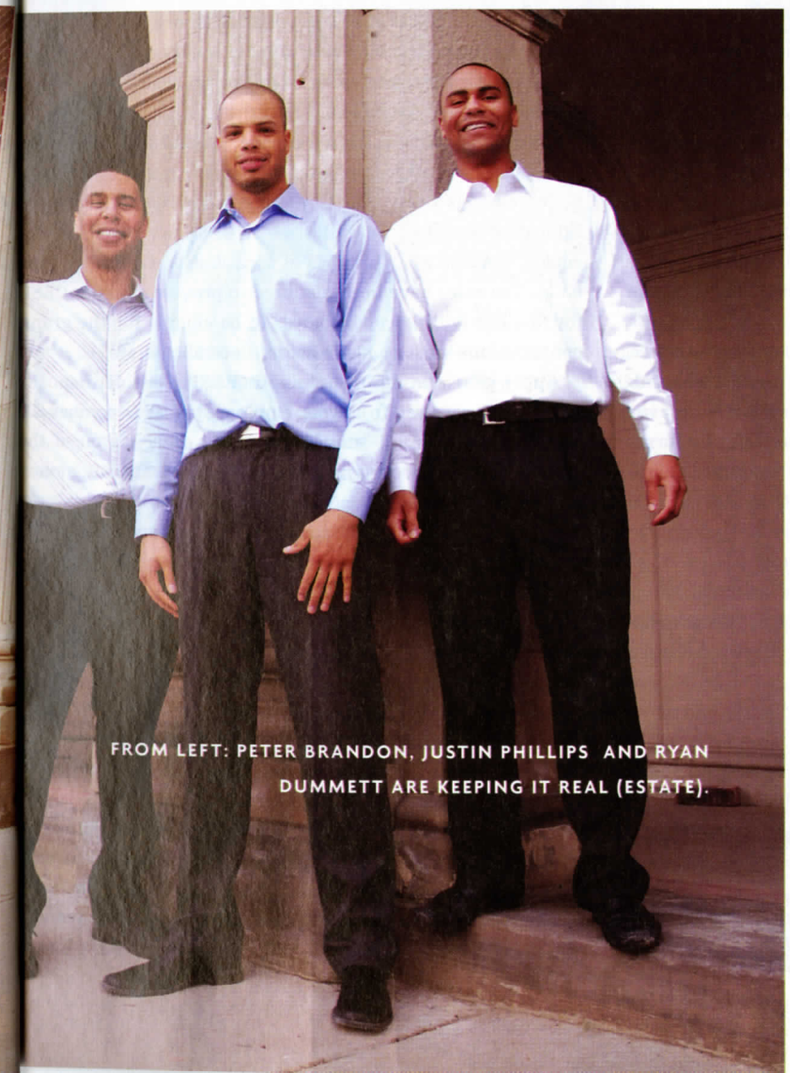
While Dummett admits that the trio have taken on a large investment, he says the rewards outweigh the stress of the responsibility.

"The most rewarding thing is just knowing that we have those properties and those assets among the three of us. Every time we've bought a house, the feeling we get afterwards is amazing. You just want to tell people. You just want to celebrate it."

He is quick to encourage other young people to get into the game. "You have to make smart decisions as well, and not rush into anything before you're ready," he cautions. "But you have to take risks too. Don't be scared to take that risk."

And there's a difference between taking a risk and making a foolish decision, he warns. " It's good because we do have a support system behind us with our parents and because there are three of us — so the risk is split — but if you don't take the risk, there's no way anything like this could get done," he says.

"You have to just jump in with two feet and see where it takes you."



FROM LEFT: PETER BRANDON, JUSTIN PHILLIPS AND RYAN DUMMETT ARE KEEPING IT REAL (ESTATE).

SMART MONEY: Marsha Henry answers your financial questio

Q. MARSHA, MY TAX REFUND THIS YEAR WAS REALLY SMALL. HOW CAN I MAKE SURE I GET MORE MONEY NEXT YEAR?

A. Many of us are trying to recover from the financial red zone that we've created for ourselves through overzealous spring-wardrobe shopping or overdue Christmas credit card bills. While some are slowly paying down their debt by making monthly payments (which can strain an already stretched monthly income) others are hoping for a cash windfall to get back in the black. For many hopefuls, this windfall will come in the form of a tax refund; but those who failed to plan may find that they are getting a smaller refund than expected. To make sure that you don't fall into this predicament next year, follow these easy tax-planning tips:

Be a cheerful giver. Individuals who contribute to a registered charity throughout the year can claim a charitable tax credit. Donations of any size will work in your favour, and remember that donations don't have to be in the form of cash. Contributions can be shares, bonds or insurance policies. Where capital property is not cash, there are special rules that govern the treatment of capital gains.

Benefit from your losses. If you invest in the stock market and any of your stocks have accrued losses,

consider selling them before the end of the year so that th can be used to offset your capital gains. Many financial pla ners recommend tracking your gains throughout the year. Y can carry forward any gains from the previous year so th you are prepared to sell losing securities.

Invest in your children's future. To assist families wi the cost of education, the government offers a Canada Ed cation Savings Grant (CESG) for contributions to Register Education Savings Plans (RESP). The CESG is equal to 20 p cent of the first $2,000 worth of contributions made for ea child. The rules have been modified to provide a higher CE for families with lower incomes. To be eligible for the gra contributions must be made before December 31st.

Apply year-end bonuses to your RRSP. Consider depos ing bonuses received from your employer before December 3 Although, the RRSP deadline is not until early March of t following year, direct payments will ensure that your mon is not spent on exorbitant holiday purchases. Instead, yo money will be used to maximize tax returns and assist wi the post-Christmas financial crunch.

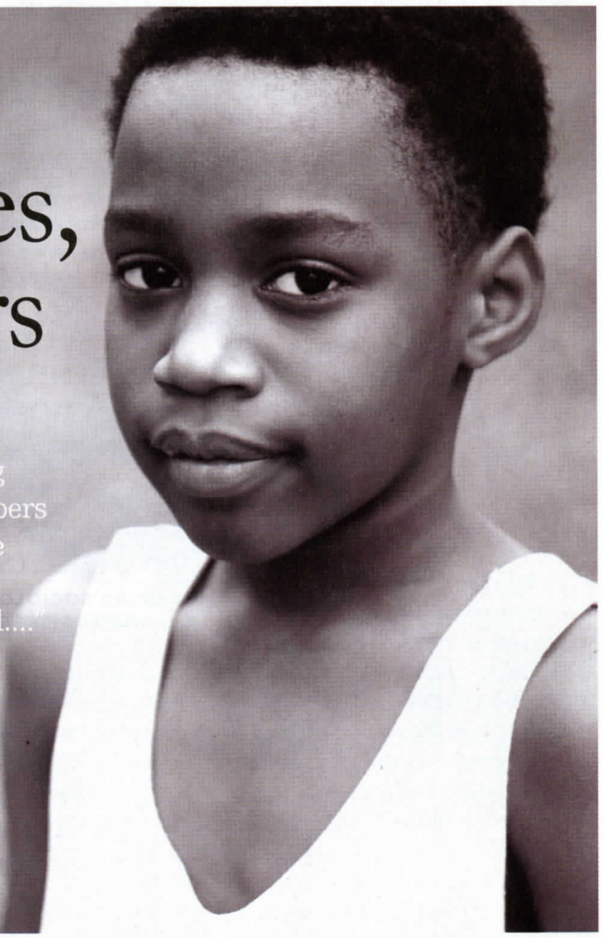
Take The Better Way. If you are able to commute usi public transit rather than a vehicle, you can take advantage the Public Transit Tax Credit. This credit applies for month transit passes purchased by any non-dependant individua within your family (spouse or common-law partner). Reme ber to keep all receipts for passes purchased for travel on lo buses, streetcars, subways, commuter trains, commuter bus or ferries.

Remember, good tax planning is proactive. Be aware of yo tax situation and, because the rules change constantly, cons with your tax professional early and often. Following the steps will help you reduce your taxes, maximize your inco and enjoy your money.

SPECIAL REPORT

Black families, absent fathers

"Forty-six per cent of black children in Canada grow up without a father. Among Toronto's Jamaican-Canadians, the numbers are even more dramatic: two out of three children grow up without a father who plays an active role in the life of his child....



MANY CHILDREN (LIKE THE BOY PICTURED HERE) GROW UP WITHOUT HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR BIOLOGICAL DADS.

by Mary Wiens & Joan Melanson

In the spring of 2004, Statistics Canada released an intriguing report entitled, "Blacks in Canada: A Long History." This statistical document focused on the observable demographic trends of blacks in Canada, and brought particular attention to the disproportionate number of single-parent families in the black community. After the release of the report, many community activists called for the government to look into the factors and effects connected with single-parent families and absentee fathers in the black community. However, as time passed, and other social concerns (many of which, in hindsight, may be related to father absence) moved into the limelight, the discussion about absentee fathers in the black community seemed to fall silent. In 2007, CBC Radio took a closer look at this issue in the *Metro Morning* series "Growing Up Without Men." This article contains excerpts of research, interviews and articles produced and written by Mary Wiens and edited by Joan Melanson. To listen to the entire series, visit: www.cbc.ca/toronto/features/withoutmen.

AT 28, ISHA TAN-NIAN'S BEEN A SINGLE mom for 11 years. She's not alone; 46 per cent of black children in Canada grow up without a father. Among Toronto's Jamaican-Canadians, the numbers are even more dramatic: two out of three children grow up without a father who plays an active role in the life of his child.

Isha was 17 when her first son was born ("every family has a rebel and I was that one"), but at the time the consequences didn't seem so bad. "I'd have to honestly say, I was blessed," says Isha, "'cause at that time, his dad was very helpful." In fact, her boyfriend quit school to look after the baby so Isha could finish high school. But it soon became more complicated. The relationship floundered, and over the next three years he had two more children with two other women before getting back together again with Isha. Once again, it didn't last long, but during those years, Isha often found herself caring for not just her two sons, but the two children from his other relationships as well.

That may seem extraordinary to an outsider, but in Isha's world, everyone involved understood the economic logic of the exchange. The other mothers were no older than Isha and, as Isha says, she was the one living with the

father of all their children, "and they figured, well you have him — these are the kids and this is your responsibility."

But just because it seemed logical didn't mean it was easy. There were many nights when Isha's partner came home after midnight, and many nights when she wondered if he was even her partner anymore. They broke up again and, a few years later, Isha met someone else. Her third son, Andrew, was born in 2004 but, within weeks, her relationship with his father unravelled.

Isha says she's sometimes congratulated by people for taking such good care of her three sons, but she doesn't see it that way. "It's so natural in the black community for single women. You do what you got to do. If there weren't so many of us — black women raising children — I could see myself as a great, wonderful mother, exemplary. But there are so many of us... it doesn't make you special in any manner."

The difficult relationship that exists between fatherlessness and the future of blacks in North America has recently garnered the attention of many American researchers. Sociologist Orlando Patterson grew up in Jamaica and is currently teaching at Harvard. His recent op-ed for the *New York Times*, titled "Poverty of the Mind," has been making waves. It's about a popular culture dominated by young black males that puts little value on being a responsible father.

Patterson believes that much of today's black culture stifles a stable relationship between young fathers and their children. Here's how he described it to the CBC's Andy Barrie:

"First of all, it's hyper-masculine. It strongly emphasizes masculinity and all that goes along with it. Being a man involves sexual prowess, it involves being a father — at least having children. It's also, secondly, very honorific. That is, it strongly emphasizes respect to an extreme degree. Many of the killings in the ghettos of young people by other young people come as a result of being 'dissed.' I can only understand that by looking at the past.

"Because, for me, all these factors I just mentioned can be found in other cultures, in India, all over Latin America and so on, yet you don't have this phenomenon of father absence. So there must be something else to it. So this is why I turn to history. I look at nearly three centuries of the destruction of the role of father and husband. That is what slavery focused on more than anything else. You have no custodial claims on your children, none of course on your wife. This established a pattern that

> "I LOOK AT NEARLY THREE CENTURIES OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THE ROLE OF FATHER AND HUSBAND. THAT IS WHAT SLAVERY FOCUSED ON MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE."
>
> **HARVARD SOCIOLOGIST ORLANDO PATTERSON**

I'm afraid is still with us. It's destroyed relationships between men and women, and we still find that pattern in a certain level of mysogyny."

Patterson also believes that the limited opportunities that existed for black families in the centuries after the abolition of slavery played a large role in the normalization of fatherlessness in the black community. Here's Patterson again, on the CBC:

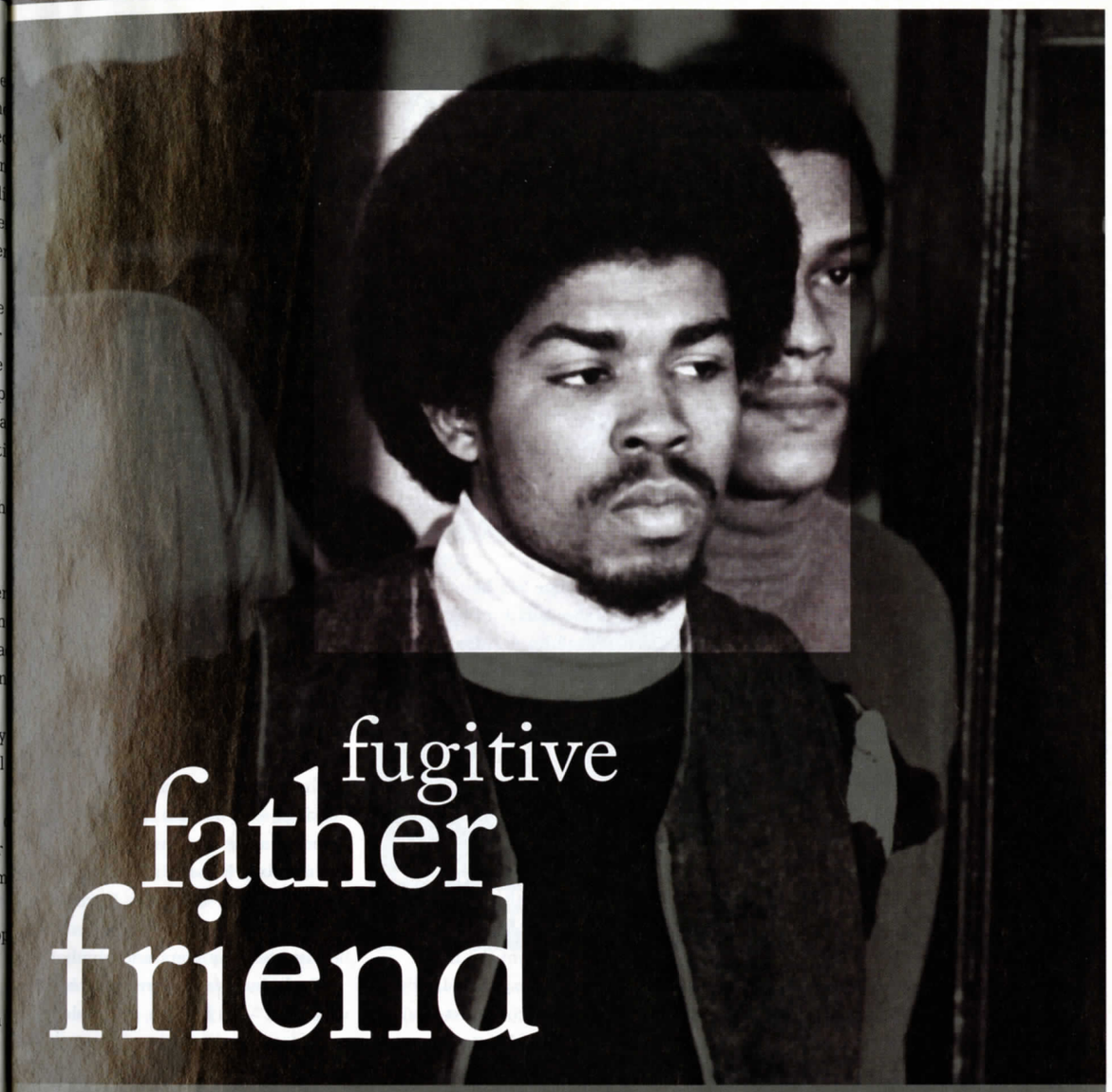
"If you look closely at what was going on in the Jim Crow era, what you found was a pattern of male dominance within those two-parent families, yes, but in which women were treated in an awful manner, in which children were there largely to provide labour, both women and children on the share-cropping farms. So the quality of those families was sort of dreadful. So, therefore, as soon as women had the opportunity to move out, as they did in the '60s, either due to better job opportunities in the urban setting or welfare, they simply left. And it's very significant that one of the main reasons that you have such low marriage rates is not just men being irresponsible parents, but it's women saying the men are high-risk and they don't want to get married."

The validity of Patterson's observations are lived out each day by women across North America, as illustrated by Isha's story in the CBC series. Isha is almost embarrassed to be living what in her own eyes seems a cliché — a single black mother, dealing with two fathers who are largely absent from their children's lives. She'll never forget an outing to Downsview Park with her two older sons. They'd made arrangements to meet their father for a circus show. But the appointed time came and went and he didn't show up.

Since they were already there, Isha decided to make the best of it, and stood around with her sons to see the next show. That's when she saw their father so close to them in the line-up that she recognized the tattoo on his arm before she saw his face. After another split second, she realized he was standing there with another family. "He had another little boy around his neck, and a little girl walking right along with them. I didn't even know what to say in that instance." The memory is still painful enough to bring tears to her eyes. "And my kids — the expression on their face." Her sons asked why their daddy didn't want to come with them. "I had nothing to say other than to stand up there amongst all those people and cry."

For Isha and families like hers, the lack of parental responsibility on the part of absentee fathers, and the resulting effect on growing children, can seem emotionally overwhelming. However, with the advent of programs such as the African Caribbean Fatherhood Program and messages aimed at young black men toward the goal of personal responsibility, there is hope that current conditions won't result in an unending cycle.

"I think there's room for optimism," Patterson says. "After I wrote that op-ed piece, I got scores of letters from young men saying, 'Look, you're describing the way I was five, 10 years ago. I was able to get out of it, although most of my friends were trapped. So it is possible to get out of those traps and we ought to see the ways in which that's possible and emphasize those ways."

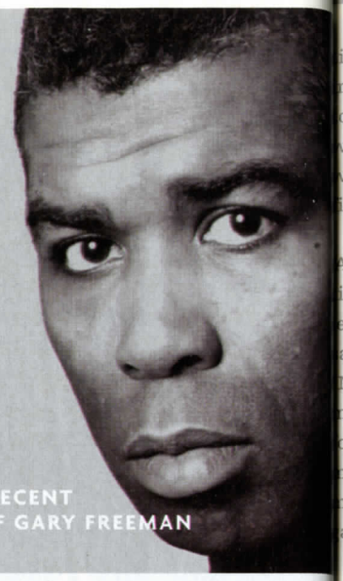


fugitive father, friend

In 1969, 19-year-old Joseph Pannell shot a police officer in Chicago. Police say it was attempted murder, Panell calls it self-defence. Authorities claim he was a member of the Black Panthers. He denies it. He was arrested and jumped bail twice in the US. On July 27, 2004, Pannell was arrested in a guns-drawn takedown outside the Toronto Reference Library, where he and his wife worked. He'd been living in Mississauga for 13 years as Gary Freeman — he'd built a life here, had a wife and children. In November 2006, Federal Justice Minister Vic Toews ordered Pannell to be surrendered to US authorities to stand trial. He is in jail in Penetanguishene, Ontario, pending appeals. Toronto writer **Morgan Campbell** grew up with the Freeman family. He knew nothing of Pannell's past — he just knew him as a friend, a teacher and a mentor.

"He could have been a preacher, a lawyer, or a university professor. His mind is that sharp, his passion for learning and teaching that deep. Instead, at 19 years old, Joseph Pannell sat in a Chicago jail cell, charged with the attempted murder and aggravated battery of a police officer.

Any dreams he may have harboured had died by the time the cell door slammed shut." — MORGAN CAMPBELL



A MORE RECENT PHOTO OF GARY FREEMAN

Joseph Pannell had just been escorted into the prisoners' box during a court appearance two years ago. To his right sat a defendant in another case, a black man in his early 20s.

Pannell sat and locked eyes with the younger man, and reached a closed hand across an empty seat, like a boxer's jab, but slow and subtle. When the younger man extended his arm, Pannell tapped the man's fist with his own, then nodded to him.

He wanted to reassure a young brother in trouble. "Innocent or guilty, you're a human being," Pannell seemed to say. "Innocent or guilty, you can be better than this. Innocent or guilty, friend or stranger, I care about you, brother."

That's a whole lot of meaning to read into an exchange that lasted, maybe, five seconds. So how do I know what Pannell meant to say?

Well, I know because I know the man. To you, he's Joseph Pannell, but I know him as Gary Freeman. I still call him Mr. Freeman, sometimes "Pops." I met him 14 years ago through his two oldest children, and I love his family like I love my own.

I learned of the charges against him on July 27, 2004, a few hours before they hit the news. His son, Jon-Maceo, phoned and told me that his father had been arrested for shooting a police officer in Chicago in March 7, 1969. Police say he attacked a police cadet, shooting him three times and leaving him paralyzed in his right arm. Mr. Freeman says he acted in self-defence. The US authorities demanded his extradition. Mr. Freeman's fighting to stay in Canada.

It was a high-profile arrest, carried out by police toting high-powered rifles, and it made the front page of papers both here and in Chicago. As days since the arrest turned into years, new turns in Mr. Freeman's story have moved it from the front to the back pages of the paper. Last November, when Justice Minister Vic Toews upheld the extradition order, the ruling didn't even make most TV news broadcasts.

But as Mr. Freeman stays in a Penetanguishene jail awaiting his appeal, his case remains important to me. And so does the man.

He's still among my favourite intellectual sparring partners. To me he's not an attempted murderer. He's a family man and thinker, a mentor, friend and father figure.

Learning of his arrest hurt me. That may as well have been my own father, brother or uncle in handcuffs. And it shocked me. I never expected to see a friend in the middle of a huge news story, arrested at gunpoint as police closed a 35-year-old cold case.

But it didn't surprise me. Knowing the racial tension that gripped Chicago in 1969, I understood that no encounter between a white police officer and a 19-year-old black man could be simple, and that a young black man might feel compelled to defend himself. My parents left that city that year for just that reason.

Through media reports and court hearings, I've heard a lot about Mr. Freeman since the arrest, most of it unflattering. None of it has made me love him any less. In fact, learning of his past has made me love him more because now I understand him better.

I had always wondered why he is the way he is — so intense, so passionate and so urgent. Now I'm closer to knowing how events from 38 years ago helped fuel his passion today.

As teenagers, if any of Jon-Maceo's friends needed a book, we had two options: the library and Mr. Freeman (who in fact worked for years at the Toronto Reference Library). If we picked Mr. Freeman, we could return the book whenever we wanted, or keep it if we wished, but we knew that to get it we had to endure the talk.

"Yeah, I can give you this book on Jack Johnson, but you also need to think about why boxing has always been a special sport for African-Americans," he might say. If you didn't already know he was African-American, the rhythm of his speech gave it away.

He'd look you in the eye the whole time, standing in his doorway, inches in front of you. Your eyes would drift to the book in his hands. He'd gesture with it, thump it for effect, but he wouldn't hand it to you until he had finished talking.

And that could take all night.

Ask yourself why it has become sanctimoniously righteous for black athletes to worship the dollar," he might say with the faintest trace of a lisp. "Now that we are so rich and famous in pro sports, where is true freedom for African-Americans? Where is the manifestation of our right to determine our own destinies? That's the game being played in this era."

At 17, I admit, I didn't know what to make of Mr. Freeman's speeches. I couldn't believe one man could memorize so many facts or sermonize for so long. And I couldn't figure out why he would do it. He could have just handed over the book then headed back to the stationary bike he kept in his basement, or to his photography, or to his record collection — the largest I have ever seen. Instead, he took the time to talk.

Mr. Freeman's talks became a running joke in our circle of friends. We would sit in his living room and snicker, then shake our heads in sympathy for whomever he cornered that night. His lectures on relationships were so intense we gave them titles: "The Bad Apple," "Eskimo Pie," "Love Equals Give." At the end of the speech you'd feel both ignorant and enlightened. Ignorant because he had just flooded you with facts you hadn't known, but enlightened because he wouldn't hold it against you. He would encourage you to learn more. The look in his eye said he needed you to learn more, to make the leap from knowledge to understanding.

Knowing the facts of Malcolm X's life was one thing, but Mr. Freeman would also want you to understand Malcolm's historical importance, and that took some thought. And he wanted you to think, not just absorb information.

So he would pepper his lectures with questions; give you something to research on your own.

But why was it so important to him? My mind goes back to the criminal charges. He could have been a preacher, a lawyer, or a university professor. His mind is that sharp, his passion for learning and teaching that deep. Instead, at 19 years old, Joseph Pannell sat in a Chicago jail cell, charged with the attempted murder and aggravated battery of a police officer.

Any dreams he may have harboured had died by the time the cell door slammed shut. When I picture that scene, I see the source of Mr. Freeman's urgency: better than anyone, he knows the tragedy of wasted talent. He was determined that we would make the most of ours.

MEDIA HOUNDS SURROUND FREEMAN'S WIFE NATERCIA COELHO OUTSIDE THE US CONSULATE ON UNIVERSITY AVENUE

By "we," I mean all his children, the four who share his blood and the many others of all colours he has adopted, befriended or guided in some way. There are more of us than I can count.

His words were his way of making us better students, better sons and daughters, and better people. I know he has helped me become a better journalist. When I began my first job, an internship at *The Detroit News*, he preached patience, reminding me that awards would come with time.

When I came to the *Toronto Star* he would offer me more feedback than many of my co-workers did. Once, it was a three-word email: "We be watchin'."

He hated email ("the e-shrine of pseudo-communication"), but I treasured his messages. I could send him four words — "How is Jon-Maceo?" — and receive a 1,000-word response that touched on minstrelsy, materialism and the slave trade. Like one of his speeches, except I could save it and send it to friends. And like his speeches, it wasn't about him writing, but about me learning. To cherish my accomplishments. To avoid complacency. To think beyond mere facts.

He once sent me a two-page critique of a story I wrote, and at the end he wished me what he wished for all of his kids. "Peace and Power," he signed it. "Pops Freeman."

Even today, as a journalist, uncle and volunteer football coach, I can see Mr. Freeman's influence on me. When a simple email from me to a team-member turns into a three-page treatise on preparing for life outside of football, I think of Mr. Freeman.

I think of him, too, every time I file a story for the *Star*. Sometimes I'm tired or up against a deadline and I'm tempted to mail it in, string together enough clichés to fill 15 column inches and live to write another day.

But then I remember who's reading. My mom's reading. My grandparents are reading. Mr. Freeman's reading. He's not in a prison with libraries and classrooms. He's doing dead time in jail. I can't mail books to him, and I can't send them in when his wife and kids visit. Cruel punishment for a man with a mind like his.

Letters and the newspaper are what he has. I go over the story once more and make it read the best I can.

I owe it to Mr. Freeman.

An earlier version of this story appeard in the Toronto Star on February 6, 2005.

COMMUNITY

OSCAR PETERSON

RIGHT HONOURABLE MICHAËLLE JEAN

BEN JOHNSON

25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

A QUARTER-CENTURY ON, THE HARRY JEROME AWARDS CONTINUE TO REFLECT BLACK CANADIAN EXCELLENCE

BY KRISTINE MAITLAND

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Black Business and Professional Association (BBPA) Harry Jerome Awards. The BBPA was formed as a result of a meeting held in 1982, hosted by businessman Denham Jolly and attended by fellow founders, including labour and race relations activist Bromley Armstrong and *Contract* newspaper publisher Al Hamilton. The main intent of the BBPA has been to encourage and support the pursuit of entrepreneurship, professional excellence, higher education and economic empowerment, using the Harry Jerome Awards as a means to annually reward excellence within the black community. It was journalist Hamlin Grange who proposed that an award ceremony be established in Jerome's name.

Many view the award ceremony and gala formal dinner as being a very prestigious event in Canada. And yet, as important as the awards are, there is a tendency to overlook them — or worse, take them as a yearly given, to be distributed and then forgotten until the next year. Then again, who remembers who won the Junos or the Genies, black, white or otherwise? (The Oscars, sadly, are given much more weight.)

Fittingly, the presentation of these quiet and seemingly unassuming awards mirrors the quiet and unassuming manner of their namesake. Harry Jerome, born in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan in 1940, was arguably the premier Canadian track athlete of the 1960s. Jerome avoided the limelight and the Canadian press took his quiet demeanour as arrogance and aloofness. Clearly this did not worry Jerome.

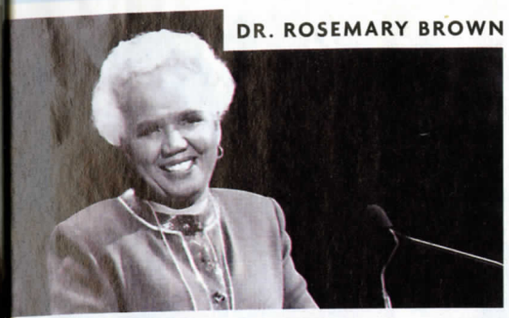
Instead he won the bronze medal at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics for the 100-metre race. He would later also take the gold in both the 1966 Commonwealth Games and the 1967 PanAm Games, setting three world records. All this after being told that he would never run again after receiving an injury in 1962 that completely severed his left quadriceps muscle.

But Jerome was no quitter. Not only did he succeed in athletics, he also earned both undergraduate and graduate degrees in Science at the University of Oregon. He was not afraid to use his sphere of influence to assist those aspiring black athletes who did not have the financial means of realizing their dreams.

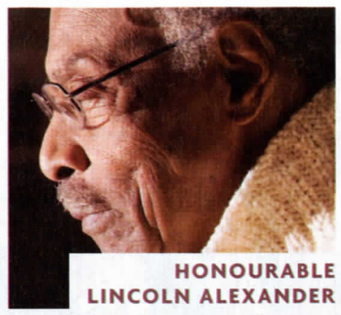
And shy as he was, Jerome w
not afraid of speaking up. Mainstrea
Canada's perception of the Africa
Canadian community was an iss
close to his heart: at one point,
demanded that television licences
suspended "if stations could not justi
neither having blacks as on-air pe
sonalities nor airing stories about t
[African-Canadian] community."

Jerome's legacy is that of greatne
not always seeking to be in the forefro
and setting the example of tireless wo
to effect change for the black commu
ties in business, athletics, the arts a
leadership. This legacy has been m
rored by the award winners over t
past 25 years.

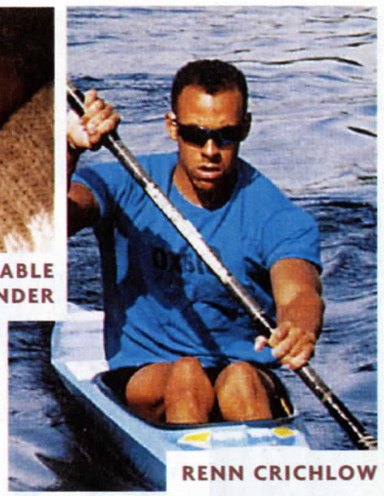
Some award winners are well-know
figures within the black communi
Pianist Oscar Peterson received a Sp
cial Merit Award in 1984. The Ho
Lincoln Alexander was awarded
Life Achievement Award in 2001; I
Rosemary Brown would take home t
same award a year later. Then there
ReelWorld Film Festival founder Ton
Lee Williams [see story page 59], w
took home the Media and Entertai
ment award more recently, in 2004.



DR. ROSEMARY BROWN



HONOURABLE LINCOLN ALEXANDER



RENN CRICHLOW

But there are other award winners who pursued excellence in areas not traditionally known for having black participants, such as rower Renn Crichlow, World Championship medal winner, and ballet dancer Kevin Pugh. And one cannot ignore the many Community service award winners, Senator Donald H. Oliver among them.

Over time, the Harry Jerome Awards would reflect the needs of our ever-changing community. In 1983, only six awards — all for athletics — were given out. But 25 years later, the Harry Jerome Awards will recognize excellence not only in Business and Community Service, but also for achievement in Health Sciences, Professional Excellence and Technology & Innovation. Awards for Academics (ages 16-24), Leadership (ages 16-24), Athletics (ages 16-24) and young entrepreneurs (ages 18-35) highlight the importance recognition of black youth plays in our community.

According to the rules, all nominees must be positive role models who are effective and productive members of Canadian society. In adhering to this mandate, the Black Business and Professional Association affirms the positive legacy of Harry Jerome.

In attendance at the 25th Annual BBPA Harry Jerome Awards gala will be the original six athletes honoured with the award: Angela Taylor-Issanjenko, Ben Johnson, Mark McKoy, Milt Ottey, Tony Sharpe and Desai Williams. The Governor General, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, will be the evening's keynote speaker.

THE HARRY JEROME AWARDS

SATURDAY APRIL 28

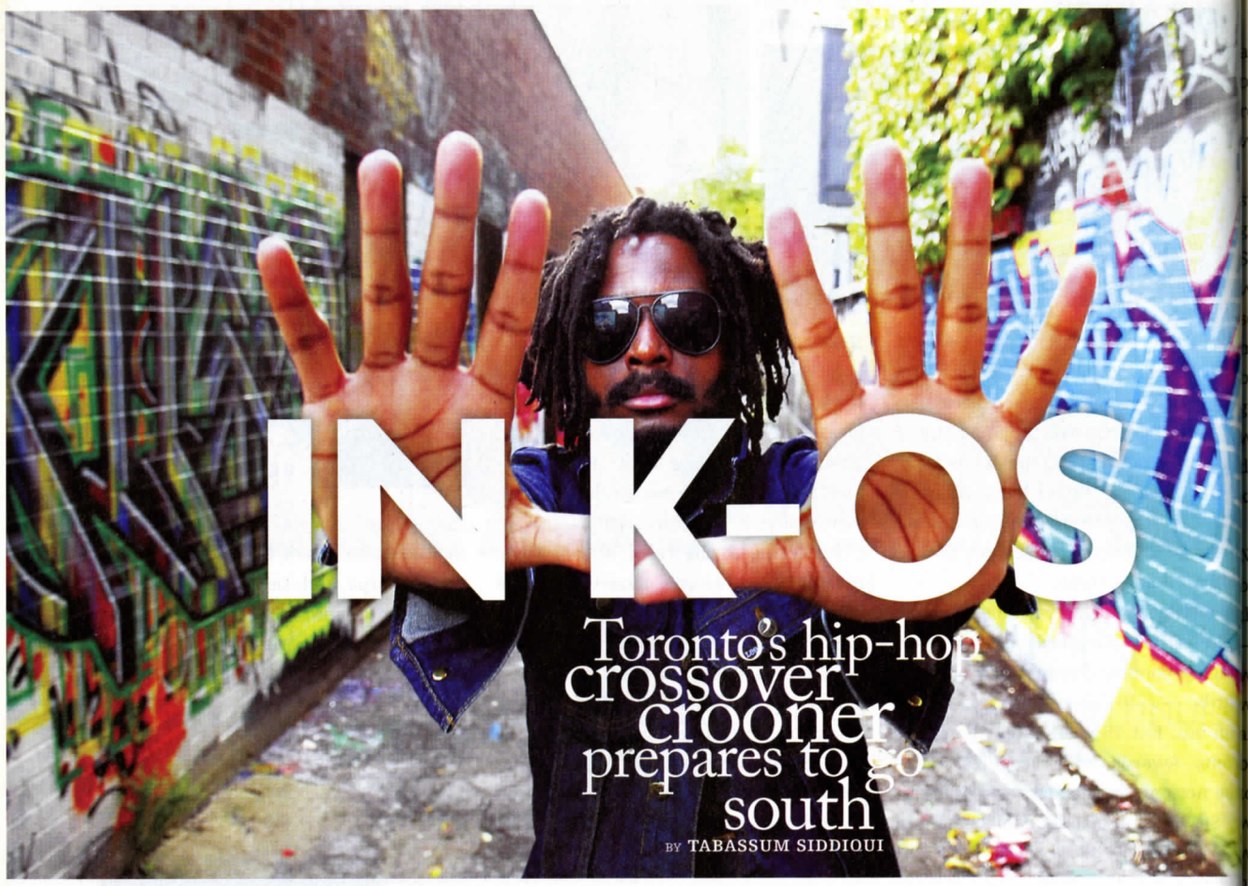
6:30pm, Toronto Congress Centre, 650 Dixon Road. Gala tickets $150. For more info, call 416-504-4097 or visit www.bbpa.org

The Harry Jerome scholarships provide financial assistance to Black Canadian youth pursuing studies at a Canadian university or college.

For more information or to apply for a scholarship, visit our website at www.bbpa.org or call us at (416) 504-4097.

Invest In A mind and Invest In The Future

The Harry Jerome Scholarship Fund of the
Black Business And Professional Association
675 King Street West Suite 210
Toronto, Ontario M5V 1M9
416.504.4097
bbpa@bellnet.ca



IN K-OS

Toronto's hip-hop crossover crooner prepares to go south

BY TABASSUM SIDDIOUI

He's become one of the biggest names in music in Canada and is about to take the US by storm, but ask k-os about his success, and he'll tell you it's born from struggle — both artistic and internal.

If you're even a casual music fan, you know the drill by now — k-os (a.k.a. Kevin Brereton) isn't your typical hip-hop artist. He sings as well as he raps, writes skilfully and produces deftly. His records run the gamut from old-skool joints to indie-rock anthems without skipping a beat, and his latest release, the Juno Award–nominated *Atlantis: Hymns for Disco*, is no different, joyfully rebelling against the constraints of categorization.

While cool tracks like the infectious "Sunday Morning" have propelled k-os up the charts, it hasn't been easy — some have criticized his music for not being strictly hip-hop, or charged that he's watering down his sound for the masses. When a critic from a Toronto newspaper gave *Atlantis* a middling review, k-os (who has admitted to being rather sensitive) lashed out by suggesting the writer, who happened to also be black, was under the thumb of his "white indie-rock bosses."

For his part, k-os says he just makes music that comes naturally, that's based on his own particular tastes and experiences.

"Music is the only thing that is culturally divisive by nature," he says. "When you go into a record store and you see reggae music, it's not like someone has some grand agenda or something, but most people who make that kind of music look a certain way. The same goes for rock music, or hip-hop. Is it my fault that people categorize music to the point where, when y stop categorizing, people think you're strange? I dunno, m John Lennon said the next big thing is a great song. That's I care about."

Growing up as one of the few black kids in the suburb Whitby, Ontario influences both k-os' songs and the way approaches his life and career. He credits his West Indian p ents for instilling in him a love of music and a sense of op ness.

"My mom wanted us to have grace. She'd already seen cert realities in her life; my dad was kind of more middle-class," says. "I don't know if she did this on purpose, but she'd go aw to Toronto to visit her brothers and sisters and leave us w this Russian woman, and we'd spend Friday to Monday with eating muffins and doing things very different from [Trinidad culture]. That changed my life, man — being able to envis women who weren't my mother taking care of me. The Afric ideal is that it takes a village to raise a child, and my mother w okay with that, not only because of her social-religious gr and how much she trusted the people, but because she was afraid to expose us to different cultures.

"If there was a song that my mom liked, whether it wa black artist or Barbara Streisand, she just loved it, you know," continues. "So from an early age my mom kind of indoctrina me to be into all people and all cultures. Of course I had conf being a black kid and loving hip-hop and having black her and going to an all-white high school, for sure. There w always questions about how black I was, or how white I was, r how hip-hop I was, how I would dress.... But when I press ecord, I can put those insecurities into the music. I mean, that's what makes the music interesting."

Given that k-os is a black artist working an angle that isn't trictly about rap, one has to wonder whether his ethnic back- round has been a factor in his career. "It was until I went to Switzerland and I saw a black man riding a bicycle in a suit with a pipe. He just rode by me and nodded his head. I've never een that. I'd never seen someone native to Switzerland with ny complexion acting his own way. Was it a European way of eing? I don't know if I would o that far, but he definitely was an original individual. He efinitely was a 'rude bwoy,'" -os recalls.

"Isn't it strange that we in North America perceive being lack as being American, and hat every icon that we have — the way they walk, they ay they talk — has to do with America? What if there re different ways of being lack? From Ghana to Ethiopia, o Morocco to Egypt; what if e're ethnic people in different ays? So for me, it's an issue f going across the world and eing, like, it's okay to be a lack Canadian and not have to ubscribe to whatever (Ameri- an hip-hop TV station) BET doing. I don't know if it's ny job to tell people any dif- erent, but because I grew up n Whitby, Ontario, I don't see myself in anybody on BET, or nybody in America. I'm more nto [indie-rock] bands like TV n the Radio, or the Bloc Party oys. It scared me at first to and up and go, 'That's not ne,' but I think having success as helped. I don't think it's ecause I'm better than anyone se, or have more talent, I think it's because I'm not afraid to e a product of my environment."

Despite being embraced at home, k-os has so far failed to rack the all-important US market with his previous albums, but hat may be about to change as his stateside label, Astralwerks, repares to give *Atlantis* a major push this year. K-os launched s first single, "Sunday Morning," with a coveted appearance n *Late Night with David Letterman* in February and will get a hance to expose his music to a whole new audience when he lays the always-popular Warped Tour this summer.

But while he's keen on taking his career to the next level, k-os isn't interested in bending over backwards to tailor his art to the marketplace. That doesn't mean he hasn't learned a thing or two about what he needs to do to break through.

"If I go to America, there's a certain way of being. I can't impose my Canadian way on them. My mom used to say, 'You can't sit upon the river and cross the river — there could be a tidal wave.' In other words, you'd better respect the tide. I'm not going to go to America and change my music or my talent, but will I make adjustments in respect to that environment? Yes, and I have to trust myself that those adjustments won't threaten my credibility or my self-love," k-os says. "But there might be things that I wouldn't do in Canada, I'll say that. But Canada is Canada. There's a certain respect that you have to give certain environments. Does that mean I'll break my moral and ethical laws? No. If I can find the space to make the changes that help serve my music, I'll definitely do it with a vigour."

Even if America doesn't bite, three albums into his career, k-os is already thinking ahead to what his next move might be.

"At this point, because I feel like this record is the end of what I call the Crucial Trilogy, I think this is sort of an ending of me getting involved in commercial music," he says (he's been known to muse aloud, however, famously suggesting when his first album was released that it might be his last). "I'm not saying my next record won't be released on a commercial level, but I'm really tired of doing press, or where my manager says, 'Okay, you have to do this to get to the next level...'

"When my dad knew he was going to move to Canada and stop working in the corporate world, he'd steal menus from places across the world. He said, 'I suggest you do the same if you feel like this is something that you're ending – maybe you don't have to steal, but enjoy yourself. And break some rules — break your own rules.' My first record, I was so uptight about my reception, protesting the state of hip-hop and so on. With this record, I'm more like, 'What's the state of Kevin?' So I'm willing to break into the American market because I'm bored of certain things and I want to break my own rules and have different types of fun."

K-OS' ESSENTIAL CANADIAN HIP-HOP ALBUMS:

Saukrates
The Underground Tapes
(Warner, 1999)
"All I've got to say is, watch out – that guy is something. His next record is going to be ridiculous."

Rascalz
Cash Crop
(BMG, 1997)
"Gotta give props to the boys from Van City."

Maestro Fresh Wes
Symphony in Effect
(LMR Records, 1989)
"A Canadian classic."

If Sway ran the Junos

BY **NICK AVELING**

Between Anne Murray and the Barenaked Ladies, Bryan Adams and Simple Plan, the Junos have never squeezed in much attention to black music. At last year's ceremony, only 25 of 200 nominations — and a paltry total of six awards — went to black artists. Imagine our complete and utter lack of surprise, then, when this year's nominees were announced in early February and (cue the Celtic fiddles) black artists had only been nominated times.

Fed up with waiting for pigs to fly, we got to thinking: what if the Junos weren't aimed at middle-aged Newfoundlanders and their teenie-bop kids? What if *Sway* were calling the shots? Ladies and gentleman, here are the nominees for *Sway*'s 2007 Junos.

International Album of the Year

Traditionally a euphemism for "American Artist Who Outsold the Bejesus out of Anyone from Canada," the International Album of the Year award has, at least since hip-hop's mainstream explosion, actually highlighted black artists to a degree that most homegrown categories don't. But judging by last year's nominees — among them 50 Cent and the Black Eyed Peas — there is still progress left to be made. Here are *Sway*'s truly global nominees for International Album of the Year.

Machel Montano
(Trinidad) — *Band Of D Year*

Cham
(Jamaica) — *Ghetto Story*

Kano
(UK) — *Home Sweet Home*

Ornette Coleman
(US) — *Sound Grammar*

Africando
(Senegal/US) — *Ketukuba*

AND THE WINNER IS: It's almost too close to call, but **Africando's** *Ketukuba* — an irresistibly playful and sensuous Afro Salsa classic — sneaks past the finish line in first place.

Banger of the Year

The criteria for this category are simple: no back-of-the-throat Nickelback warbling, no rehashed Bublé crooning and, most importantly, no Canadian Idol winners. Canadian hip-hop might not be getting its due at home or abroad, but a quick listen to the following bangers would stop even the most stubborn of doubters from sipping that maple-flavoured Haterade.

k-os
"Cat Diesel"

DL Incognito
"Newera"

Rochester a.k.a. Juice
"Young Love"

Red 1
"Dem No Worry Me"

Cadence Weapon
"Sharks"

AND THE WINNER IS: While **k-os'** infectious "Sunday Morning" dominated the playlists of many an unsuspecting adult contemporary radio station this year, the vicious, unrelenting "Cat Diesel" remained slept on by almost everyone who hadn't bought the record. If we ran the Junos, that would stop right now.

Steelband of the Year

The steelpan was invented in Trinidad in the early 1940s. According to our calculations, the readers of this article will be long dead by the time it's recognized at the Junos. Until then, here are our nominees.

Jesse Ketchum Pan-Vibrations
Afropan
Silhouettes
Pan Fantasy
New Dimension

AND THE WINNER IS: We'll go with the Ontario Steelpan Association's 2006 Caribana Pan Alive winner, **Pan Fantasy**.

Most Slept on Vocalist of the Year

Need to deliver a batch of freshly baked scones across a dewy meadow? Sarah McLachlan's got you covered. Experiencing a sweeping moment of quiet reflection before doing battle with bloodthirsty orcs? Look no further than Loreena McKennitt. If you're not doing either of these things — and really, who has the time in this day and age? — *Sway*'s got your back. Here are the nominees:

Denzal Sinclaire
Nirvana Savoury
Kelly Lee Evans
Dione Taylor
Kaybe

AND THE WINNER IS: Sweetly me... cholic and defiantly optimistic, ... vocalist Dione Taylor's voice is li... a perfect first date after months ... singledom. We can't resist.

Special Toronto Mentions

Since CTV bought the rights to ... broadcast the Junos in 2002, th... awards have not once been he... in their hometown of Toronto. ... That's not cool. Here are *Sway*'s ... compensatory Toronto awards.

Best Toronto-Centric Mix Tape Name:
S.A.R.S. 4 — Ear Born Virus

Best International Artist Who Wishes He Were From Toronto:
John Legend, for appearing in Toronto more often than the Leafs, Jays and Raptors combine...

Best International Artist Who Wish They'd Made It To Toronto:
Smif n' Wessun, Redman and Raekwon, who didn't make it across the border to perform a... last December's disastrous Roc... The Bells show.

THE SUMMER SOUL MOVEMENT

...oe, Maxwell and Amerie set the stage ...or hot summer nights

BY **JON SARPONG**

IF, like me, you've been waiting for rap's reign at the top of the charts to come to a disco-esque crash and make way for something new, this could be ...our summer. Don't get me wrong, I like rap just as much ...s the next guy, but when an artist can go platinum by ...ooping the words "chicken noodle soup," I think that's a ...re sign that we need to take a hip-hop time out. Admit ...; you miss the days when you'd head-nod to Aaliyah; ...ose down the joint with Lucy Pearl; or mess up the ...heets to Sade. So let's take a look at 2007's most ...nticipated music releases and how they may lead to ...sensuously seductive soul summer.

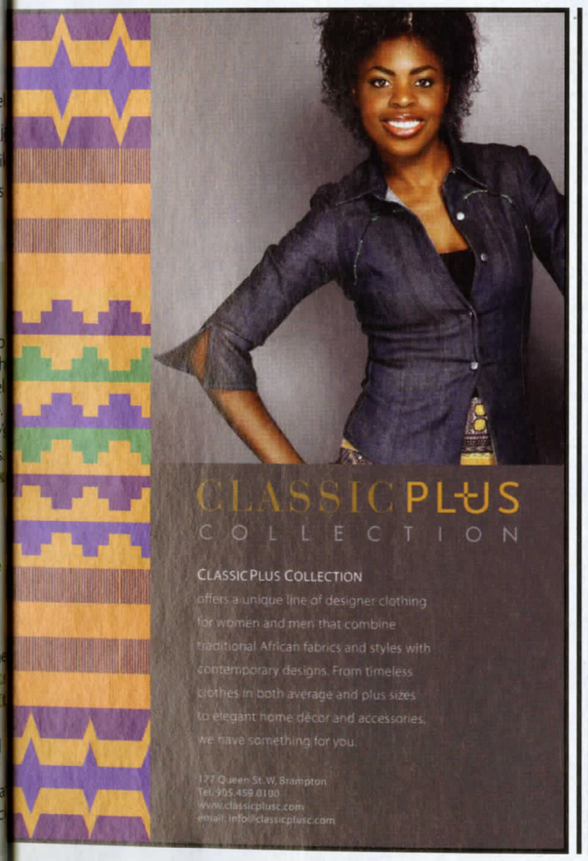
Neo-soul crooner **Maxwell** has apparently com...leted all the music on the eagerly anticipated *Black ...ummer's Night* album, which was originally due out ...ebruary but has been pushed back to this spring/...mmer. Maxwell's official website announced that ...e new album is the first part of a trilogy, with two ...bsequent discs coming in 2008 and 2009. It's been over six years since we've heard anything new from Mr. Sumthin'-Sumthin', but the word from advance listening sessions is that this album will deliver.

Mary J. Minnie Me, **Keyshia Cole**, is working on her second album, *Tears From a Soldier's Heart*, with producers **Kanye West** and **Cool & Dre**. According to reports, the album will feature appearances by **R. Kelly**, **John Legend** and **Jagged Edge**, and include guest spots from **Anthony Hamilton**, **Missy Elliott** and **Olivia** (of the G-Unit hip-hop clique). Look for a summer release date to be announced soon.

Ladies' man, actor, and sometimes singer **Marques Houston** just hit the streets with *Veteran* on March 20, 2007. This is Marques' third solo album and word is that the disc, originally slated for a November 2006 release, was pushed back to give Houston time to deal with a death in the family. Look for appearances on BET's *106 & Park* and a tour later on this summer.

Will **Amerie** bring beef to the world of R&B? Well, rumour has it that Amerie has negative feelings towards one **Beyoncé Knowles** for (allegedly)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 58


CLASSIC PLUS
COLLECTION
CLASSIC PLUS COLLECTION
offers a unique line of designer clothing for women and men that combine traditional African fabrics and styles with contemporary designs. From timeless clothes in both average and plus sizes to elegant home decor and accessories, we have something for you.
177 Queen St. W. Brampton
Tel: 905.459.0100
www.classicplusc.com
email: info@classicplusc.com

KNOWLEDGE BOOKSTORE
SPECIALIZING IN:
• AFROCENTRIC LITERATURE • FIGURINES
• BEAUTY PRODUCTS • GREETING CARDS
• DOLLS AND GIFT IDEAS
Tel: 905-459-9875
177 Queen Street W., Brampton ON L6Y 1M5
sales@knowledgebookstore.com • www.knowledgebookstore.com

FROM PAGE 57

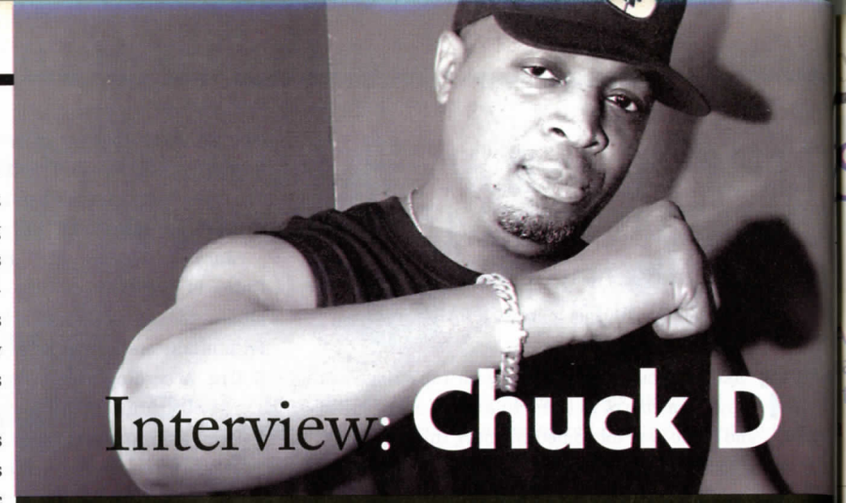
jacking Amerie's vocal style. Amerie allegedly even put out a mixtape (has she been talking to **The Game**?) where she disses someone (again, allegedly Beyoncé). Could this all be true? Or is it just publicity for Amerie's new album *Because I Love It*, which is due out in late spring?

Will **Johntá Austin** be this year's Ne-Yo? We'll find out as the songwriter and love-music balladeer gets set to release his debut album *Ocean Drive* early this summer. Johntá (pronounced jawn-TAY) has previously worked with **Mariah Carey**, **Chris Brown**, **Bow Wow**, and is the co-writer of the **Mary J** megahit, "Be Without You."

Mr. Loverman (No, not Shabba Ranks) **Joe** is back with *Who Is*

Joe, an exploration of soul/hip-hop fusion due out this month. Expected guest performers on the disc include: **Papoose**, **Nas**, **Fabolous**, **Chamillionaire** and G-Unit's **Young Buck** and **Tony Yayo** — Papoose and Yayo? Look out **Tyrese**; it looks like Joe is ready to make a move as music's number one sensitive thug.

Grammy winner **Mya** is slated to release her fourth album, *Liberation* in early summer. Apparently, the album was supposed to be released in January, but word is that Mya decided to rework the first single, "Ayo," after it wasn't received too well. The new single, "Lock U Down," featuring **Lil Wayne,** has already been leaked to the internet and seems to be holding its own thanks to **Wheezy**. The best guess is that we'll see *Liberation* in stores in June 2007.



Interview: Chuck D

Who knows the future of the rap industry, Jay-Z or Chuck D? Think about it. Hov voluntarily stepped into the ailing major label world to run Def Jam in 2004. Mistachuck traded Def Jam for paid downloads in 1999, two years before iTunes even existed. He runs the indie label SlamJamz.com, has a syndicated radio show, and gives lectures such as the one he gave recently at Canadian Music Week. Oh, and he's in this little band called Public Enemy who are celebrating their 20th anniversary with their original membership intact, who snagged the national spotlight as late as 2005 with their Hurricane Katrina-themed single "Hell No (We Ain't Alright)" and who will drop their 13th album this year. If you want to remain vital when you're pushing 50, sit down and listen to a grown-ass man.

Public Enemy has been around for 20 years. Damn.

I'm loving it. It's a milestone that few rap acts have reached. In 20 years as a solid, cohesive unit, we've never had a serious implosion that made the group break up. Despite what you hear. [Laughs.] Things have happened along the way, but it's pretty much Chuck D and Flava Flav.

After leaving Def Jam to put out the first internet-only album by a major artist, you must feel vindicated today. It seems like the only advantages major labels have over indies these days are huge promotional budgets.

The tricks and the games are gone. In the '90s, you could get people going to the store to buy a CD for one song. Now we have the MySpace and YouTube generation. People have access to the technology, they have access to instrumentation. There's two or three million artists who are making recordings, and very good ones at that. That's hard for the music business to swallow because they can't sign everybody. There's always going to be the cream of the crop, but it's different than it was.

The downside is that attention spans are shrinking.

That's true. I have teenage daughters, one's in college, one's in junior high. And seriously, tell them to listen to 10 songs back to back, in their entirety, and it's like, that's from another century. That's why ringtones are so popular. We're seeing the advent of the 60-second record.

If you had to pick one highlight afte years of PE, what would it be?

Going to Africa for the first time in 1992. I the plane and kissed the ground. Now they g Base there in South Africa. You kind of wo that's a blessing or a curse. When black pe over the world see black people coming from ica, this pattern comes in. After the freedom f of black America who made statements tyranny, after slavery, all the way up to civil r 1965, people see the whole lineage of love, and respect that came from black America. gone in reverse, because the images being pr out there by corporations are leading people wrong directions. When you go to Africa th Wassup nigga? You're like, Well, where did y this? And they tell you, I got this from a pro coming up out of America. Endorsed by, know, Sony or somebody like that.

During the controversy over Joe Bid condescending comments about Bar Obama, I was reminded of certain c ics who've described Public Enemy similar lines. Do you feel like you've treated in a condescending way by t media?

Ehhh, I don't even want to get into that, b that's like talking about Michael Richards. the statement, there's the attitude and the racism, so the statement's really anti-climac white guilt that really comes out to speak Somebody says to me, "Yeah Chuck, you're late," I just say, cool. I aim to be. And that keep it moving. I don't get into saying, "Oh, man can't be articulate?" I'm not trying to somebody's psyche on how come they could the right word to ask when they're not privy background, I'm not into that. It's a waste of

Do you think you'll be like the Rolli Stones and be out there in another years?

I would like to. The inclusion of the band 1999 gave us unbelievable flexibility. Public shows are a combination of Rage Again Machine, The Roots and Run DMC. It's a grea to stay in shape, but you got to keep up w songs. The energy of the records makes you shape because if you can't do it, you better n try. They're not songs where you can stand place or you can sit down in a chair and ju can't Solomon Burke it. BY **DAVE MORRIS**

Screening THE WORLD

pril'S **ReelWorld Film Festival** focuses on amaica, but founder **Tonya Lee Williams** says 's not about one country or culture — it's bout desegregating cinema

BY **ASHANTE INFANTRY**

In a city replete with distinct cinematic celebrations, the ReelWorld Film Festival's calling card is inclu- on. Launched in 2000 by former *The ung and the Restless* star Tonya Lee illiams, the annual four-day spring fair aims to showcase culturally and cially diverse talent.

"I don't think we have enough; I believe ere should be a film festival every day the week," Williams says of Toronto's other yearly film fetes. "The more stivals there are, the more chances for nadian filmmakers to get their work t there.

"Worldwide, film festivals are probably times more [common] now than they ere 10 years ago. Everyone is under- anding that this is a really significant rm of distribution in an entertainment dustry that's hurting, and the fact that w media is growing in so many differ- t ways."

On a budget of less than a million llars, ReelWorld screens more than Canadian and international features, cs, shorts and animated films, as well staging seminars with industry experts d live interviews with actors and direc- rs.

The non-profit entity also has year- und offerings, including an online diver- y directory and an indie film lounge ring the Toronto International Film stival in September.

"A film festival is always a struggle cause every single penny goes into the stival," Williams says in an interview m her home in the Southwestern US.

"You have to keep sustaining your spon- rs, you have to keep those government ants and, depending on what govern- ent is in office, the support gets less or re. We've continued to manage to ride the wave."

In addition to putting her own money into the festival and using her celebrity to promote it, the actor-director-producer also takes on arduous tasks such as writing grants and lobbying sponsors. But she leaves the choice of films to others.

"The festival is really not a reflection of me whatsoever," she says. "Clearly, there are movies (selected) that I enjoy; but there are areas that I have no interest in — music videos and animation, for instance. There are a lot of movies that may not move me, but they're all movies that move somebody. And that's what's important to me in the festival."

Hayet Benkara is one of four programmers who spent months sorting through hundreds of submissions. "It's going to be a festival where people see films about people," Benkara says of the current lineup. "They're going to contemplate what is going on on an international level, where everyone is questioning the system and their neighbours, and the relationships that lead to war. These films will make them ask questions about their communities on political and social levels."

In its tradition of highlighting a different country or region, this year ReelWorld focuses on Jamaica, with four entries, including *Louise Bennett: Miss Lou Then & Now*, a documentary on the late literary icon, and *DJ Derek*, about Jamaicans in London.

The island's renowned theatre actor Leonie Forbes — the Gemini-winning star of *Lord Have Mercy* — will receive ReelWorld's Award of Excellence for her body of work. She also stars in *A Winter Tale*, which opens the festival. The drama, set in Toronto, was directed by Trinidad native Frances-Anne Solomon whose film *Peggy Su!* was featured at the premiere ReelWorld seven years ago.

"I really enjoy seeing filmmakers grow and develop, and this film is fantastic," Williams says of *A Winter Tale*. "It's a great Canadian cast — every face in there is recognizable and I love that."

For its seventh year, ReelWorld has introduced several new initiatives: a trade show geared toward emerging filmmakers; an Over-55 programme that appeals to older filmgoers; an expanded three-day youth program that includes discussions with the filmmakers; music videos by MuchMoreMusic VJ Diego Fuentes; and the Tony Stoltz ReelWorld Visionary Award presented to film critic/festival programmer Cameron Bailey, because, says ReelWorld's operations manager Nick Yeo, "he's given black filmmakers the confidence to tell their stories."

With so many film festivals defined by sexuality, race or religion, Williams was determined to bring them all under one roof.

"I got tired of going to black film festivals and Asian film festivals and seeing a segregated audience," she says. "I wanted to do a festival that would literally force people to be together. Most filmmakers don't make a film for any one ethnic group to watch; you make a film because you hope it tells a universal story that everybody can appreciate. This festival goes out of its way to eradicate those colour lines."

And she's got the cure for anyone trying to segregate their viewing at ReelWorld. "If you're someone black and you're specifically trying to find a black film, I force you to watch an Asian short before that. Storytelling of any kind — books, film — is the only hope we have of giving people greater understanding to learn more about compassion and love."

Scene from *The Pact*

ReelWorld Film Festival HIGHLIGHTS

SHOOT THE MESSENGER
DIRECTED BY NGOZI ONWURAH, FEATURE, UK
This bold and daring feature takes a startling look at race relations and identity, exploring one man's frustrations with his community and with himself.

LOUISE BENNETT: MISS LOU THEN & NOW
DIRECTED BY REGAN MACAULAY, DOCUMENTARY, JAMAICA
The Honorable Louise Bennett-Coverley is a Jamaican icon. The country's leading author, poet, and comedienne, Miss Lou pioneered the use of the Jamaican language, raising the patois dialect to the level of an art form that reflects the truth and essence of Jamaican life. This remarkable documentary was completed just before she died in 2006.

THE PACT
DIRECTED BY ANDREA KALIN, DOCUMENTARY, USA
A gritty, provocative true-life story of three friends from the 'hood (Rameck Hunt, Sampson Davis and George Jenkins) who made a pact in high school to find a way to go to college and then medical school. They not only accomplished their goal, but they're now spreading the word to inspire other inner-city kids to stay off of drugs, out of gangs and to take the educational route to a better life. Their stories affirm the values that ultimately sustained and drove them: courage, tenacity and faith.

REELWORLD RUNS APRIL 11-15. RAINBOW CINEMAS MARKET SQUARE; 80 FRONT ST. E. INDIVIDUAL TICKETS $9; FESTIVAL PASSES $150. FOR MORE INFO. VISIT WWW.REELWORLD.CA.

PRODUCTION NOTES BY BLACKFLIX.C

LAWRENCE, RAVEN-SYMONE ON COLLEGE ROAD T
Martin Lawrence is teaming with Raven-Symone to on a *College Road Trip* for Walt Disney Pictures. *lege* is looking at a late June or early July start date.

MORGAN FREEMAN, ANGELINA JOLIE WANTED
Angelina Jolie has signed on to star opposite Morgan Freeman in upcoming Universal Pictures release *Wanted*, an action film based graphic novel about assassins. Production is slated to begin in East Europe in May.

HALLE BERRY RETEAMS WITH BILLY BOB
Halle Berry will join her *Monster's Ball* co-star Billy Thornton in the new film *Tulia*, based on the true story of a racia motivated string of arrests in a rural Texas town. Berry is cast as lead attorney for the NAACP Legal Defence and Educational Fu which intervened to free 49 black men wrongly convicted based one crooked cop's testimony. Shooting is scheduled to begin Apri in and around New Orleans, reports *Variety*.

ROB BROWN WINS HEISMAN?
Rob Brown has been cast as the first African-American football pl to win the Heisman Trophy in the new Universal film *The Express*. actor will suit up as Ernie Davis, an athlete who never played one in the NFL because he was diagnosed with leukemia.

KATT WILLIAMS AND EDDIE MURPHY ARE MARSHALS
Norbit co-stars Eddie Murphy (producer) and Katt Williams (writer) will work together once again in the upcoming DreamWorks comedy *Marshals*, which follows the first black marshals of the Old West.

CUBA GOODING, JR. A HERO
Cuba Gooding Jr. and Ray Liotta are answering the call for *H Wanted*, about a garbage collector who stages a bank robbery sc can be the hero and stop it in order to impress a girl who work the bank. Shooting is set to begin this month in Bulgaria.

WILL SMITH GETTING COOKED
Following in the footsteps of *The Pursuit of Happyn* Columbia Pictures and Will Smith revisit the r to-redemption plot by adapting for the screen Henderson's drug dealer-turned-star chef mem *Cooked: From the Streets to the Stove, From Coc to Foie Gras*. Henderson learned the art of gour cooking while serving a prison sentence for dealing crack cocain

FROG PRINCESS WILL HAVE DISNEY'S FIRST BLACK PRINCESS
The Walt Disney Co. is in production on *The Frog Princess*, its hand-drawn animation project in years. *Aladdin* and *Little Merm* creators Ron Clements and John Musker are the creative forces be the animated musical, which takes place entirely in New Orleans, features the very first African-American Disney princess.

JANET JACKSON HITCHED TO PERRY PROJECT
Janet Jackson is saying "I do!" The entertainer has joined the Tyler Perry family with the announcement that she's hitched to the director's next project, *Why Did I Get Married?* Jackson joins Sharon Leal (*Dreamgirls*) and soul singer Jill Scott in the flick about couples on holiday analyzing their relationships. Cameras are already rolling.

Making strides

ROCK.PAPER.SISTAHZ HELPS BUILD TORONTO'S BLACK THEATRE COMMUNITY BY PAMELLA BAILEY

"We will always need black theatre festivals," says **ahdri zhina mandiela**, founder and artistic director of **bcurrent**, the performance company organizing **rock.paper.sistahz**. Now in its sixth year, the three-week festival showcases black female voices from Canada to the Caribbean, from filmmakers to playwrights and authors.

The importance of passing on a cultural legacy fuels the need for continuous involvement from the community. "We are the keepers of black aesthetics," says mandiela. "If we don't look at them and keep looking at them, they get subsumed into the mainstream… and when we talk about history and legacy we lose those."

Expanding into the community is what this year's festival is all about, moving from some of the typical theatre spaces in the city to include library and community spaces, ending with a Sunday afternoon block party on Eglinton. "That, for me, is what will sum up the spirit of this year's festival," says mandiela.

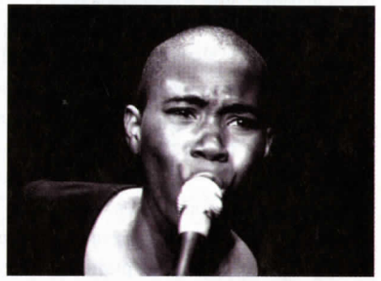
At the core of the festival are new works by emerging and established artists, including pieces from performer, playwright and Dora Mavor Moore–award winner **d'bi.young**; readings from award-winning poet, author and performer **Afua Cooper**; a piece from **Shauntay Grant**, a spoken word performer from Nova Scotia; and an operatic piece from **Dian Marie Bridge,** a multi-talented director and playwright. Many of the pieces are in workshop mode, allowing audiences "to grow with the artists." It's the experimental nature of the festival that makes it unique.

Developing black performance artists is nothing new for mandiela, the 2006 recipient of the George Luscombe Award for mentorship in theatre, and the Silver Ticket Award winner for her contributions to Canadian theatre. Mandiela has devoted her career to supporting emerging artists through the fiz'n' the sun ensemble, several of whom will feature pieces in this year's festival. **Trey Anthony,** creator of *Da Kink in My Hair*, and **d'bi.young** are just some of the artists who have come through the program and moved on to successful careers in theatre.

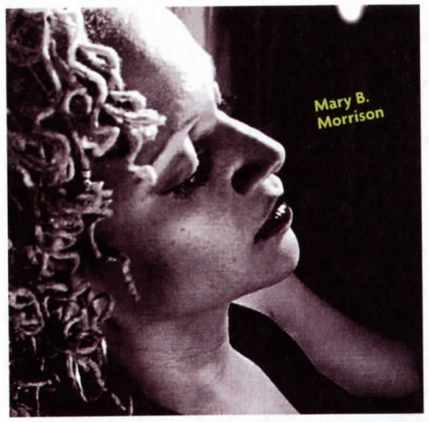
Mandiela is encouraged by the strides made in black theatre, with more venues — such as Stratford and the Mirvish Theatres — featuring works by black artists and employing black directors and actors, and her inclusion as a playwright in residence at CanStage. "Kudos to the strides, because that's what I work for," says mandiela. "I will never downplay the strides."

However, mandiela cautions: "We cannot underestimate the need for developing companies and work within venues run and generated by black artists and black producers…. Until we are looking at the character of Canadian identity as being very broad, inclusive and non-challenged, we will have to look at how the inclusion happens."

ROCK.PAPER.SISTAHZ RUNS TO APRIL 13 AT MULTIPLE LOCATIONS. FOR MORE INFO AND TICKETS VISIT WWW.BCURRENT.CA OR CALL 416-533-1500.



CLOKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: **AHDRI ZHINA MANDIELA, D'BI.YOUNG AND AFUA COOPER**



Success, sweet as honey

UNSTOPPABLE WRITER MARY B. MORRISON ON **EROTICA**, **EMPOWERMENT** AND **EDDIE MURPHY**

BY ANDREA THOMPSON

Eddie Murphy can change your life. Just ask bestselling author Mary B. Morrison. Speaking by telephone from her home in Oakland, California, Mary explains that after seeing Eddie Murphy do stand-up comedy seven years ago, she knew she had to quit her near-six-figure government job and become a full-time writer.

For Morrison, the decision was a long time coming. Nearly a decade before that, after finding and losing the man she believed was her soulmate, she promised herself, "One day I'm going to write that story." Time passed and she became preoccupied with the business of being a working mother raising her son alone — until she was shaken by the experience of having a co-worker retire, only to die the next day. At that point, Morrison knew her dreams couldn't wait.

In 1999, Morrison self-published her first book of poetry, *Justice Just Us Just Me*. But it wasn't until Eddie Murphy came to town that Morrison took the leap of faith. "He said, 'In order to gain something, you have to be willing to let go of something. And when you do, don't look back.' That really stuck with me, so I thought … okay, if I really want to be a writer, I have to let go of this job."

After that Morrison decided to take her retirement savings and invest in herself by writing and self-publishing her first novel, *Soul Mates Dissipate,* a fictional book about relationships, sex and spirituality. She knew it was a risky move, but decided, "I'd rather die a failure, than to have lived and never known whether I would become a success."

This debut, promoted mostly though word of mouth, was so popular it appeared on the *Essence* bestseller list, and was later picked up by Kensington publishers. Kensington offered Morrison a book deal.

Since that time, Mary B. Morrison has published a series of six novels with Kensington, including *New York Times* bestsellers *When Somebody Loves You Back*, and *She Ain't the One* (written with Carl Webber).

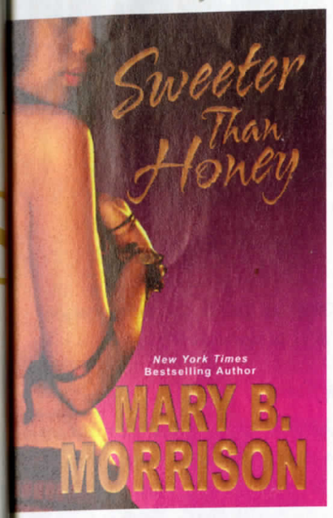
Best read in the order they were written, Morrison's books follow a collection of wealthy, attractive, black urban characters through juicy story lines with enough intrigue and drama to put a soap opera to shame. It isn't high art, but expand the literary cannon was never Morrison's intention. "I wan to write something fun. Something with characters who w successful and rich, but who still had issues to deal with."

Morrison explains that the relationship issues she of brings to the fore are ones she sees repeatedly in real life. "(of the biggest mistakes that I think people make in relati ships, especially in the African-American community, is being honest with themselves in terms of what they wa she says. "Sometimes I think women feel that if they expr what their needs are, they're going to run the guy off, that's not always true. If he's really interested, he'll listen hear her. But if she doesn't start off saying what she wa or what's important to her, then she's probably not goin get it."

She also thinks men need to more clearly express what t want. "Some guys are just free spirits and want to date fr and I think that's fine, but what some do is be mislead to the women they're with, and say certain things that t don't really mean, because they think that's what the wo wants to hear. "

Not content to rest on her recent success, Morriso busy working on a new series, *Sweeter than Honey* — wh explores the theme of domestic violence — and developing screenplay of *Soul Mates Dissipate* into a feature film. S also working on a series of erotic novels for Warner Bo entitled *Sexcapades*, which she plans to publish under the name Honey B.

Morrison is aware that such writing isn't for everyon cannot stop doing what I need to do while I'm here or writer. I can't censor myself because there may be a gr religious or otherwise, who think that what I'm writing a is not right," she says. "I think we live in a society that I 'the conflicted society,' because on one hand everythin sexually explicit, but the minute we start talking about we find that a lot of people are uncomfortable. I talk abo because I love it, I enjoy it, I think it's a natural progres in life, and I think that we need to have a healthier attit



ward it. Particularly African-American wom- n, because I think that our history is so sup- essed when it comes to being sexually free, om the slavery movement up until now."

Throughout her career, Morrison's message both in and outside of her writing life — is at she wants to help people become more powered.

To that end, working with communities in th Northern California, and in New Orleans here she was born, Morrison founded SHIFT upporting Healthy Inner-Freedom for Teens). his program focuses on communication, self- tualization, and the importance of making ise life choices. Mary is also the founder and resident of The RaW (Readers' and Writers') dvantage, where she conducts workshops ith aspiring authors on how to self-publish nd promote their books.

With a smile in her voice, the queen bee f black erotic fiction says simply, "There's othing I can't do."

Chapters of our legacy

February's done, but these books will help you explore black history all year long

BY SEAN LIBURD

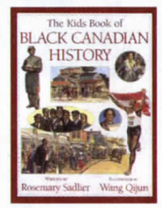
For most of North America, Black History Month is now an afterthought. But for those of us who are attempting to enjoy our heritage year-round, here are three books that will help keep the flame of culture burning brightly:

Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome

Joy Degruy Leary
Uptone Press, 2007,
$32.99

An analytical journey through the horrifying effects of chattel slavery, lynching, Jim Crow laws, racism and other oppressive methods used against African-Americans by wider society. Leary methodically lays out the effect of these vicious institutions on today's African-American way of life, clearly defining and discussing the major categories of affliction while also providing real-life examples of redemption. This book is highly recommended for those of African heritage looking to understand the power of perseverance and the importance of cultural healing.

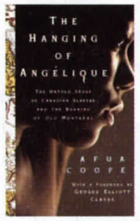
The Kids Book of Black Canadian History



Rosemary Sadlier's
Kids Can Press, 2003,
$19.95

For younger readers, this is a concise text that covers many aspects of African-Canadian history. From the first black Canadian to the most recent wave of African immigrants, black Canadians have played an important role in our country's history. In this informative overview, kids will discover the inspiring stories of a people who fought oppression as they searched for a place to call their own. Featuring fact boxes, mini-profiles, a timeline and more, this book offers a glimpse into an often-overlooked part of Canadian history. Here are all the people, events, and social processes that make African-Canadian history such a fascinating and inspiring subject. This beautifully written book makes a wonderful addition to any library.

The Hanging of Angélique



Afua Cooper
Harper Collins, 2006,
$32.95

Cooper sheds light on Canada's historical relationship to the slave trade. "Slavery is Canada's best-kept secret, locked within the national closet. But slavery was an institutionalized practice for over 200 years," Cooper writes. This work explores Canada's role as an active participant in the slave trade, through the story of Marie-Joseph Angélique, a Montreal woman and slave, tortured and hanged as a result of her controversial conviction as the primary arsonist in the famous 1734 burning of Old Montreal.

what we're reading

From Harvey River

Lorna Goodison
McClelland and Stewart, 2007 $29.99

In *From Harvey River*, Lorna Goodison's hypnotic memoir of her forebears, we meet a cast of wonderfully drawn characters, including George O'Brian Wilson, the Irish patriarch who married a Guinea woman after visiting Jamaica in the mid-1800s; Doris's parents, Margaret and David, childhood sweethearts who became the first family of Harvey River; their eight children, whose unique personalities bombard the page with insight and depth; and William Harvey, who when he discovers a clearing at the end of a path cut by the feet of those running from slavery, gives his name to what will become his family's home for generations. For Doris, Harvey River is the place she always called home, the place where she was one of the "fabulous Harvey girls," and where the rich local bounty of Lucea yams, pimentos, and mangoes went hand in hand with the Victorian niceties of her parents' house. It is a place to which she will return in dreams when her fortunes change, years later, and she and her husband, Marcus Goodison, relocate to "hard life" Kingston and encounter the harsh realities of urban living. *From Harvey River* takes us deep into the heart of a complete world to tell a universal story of family and the ties that bind us to the place we call home. JON SARPONG

DEAR XANIA

Masala Love

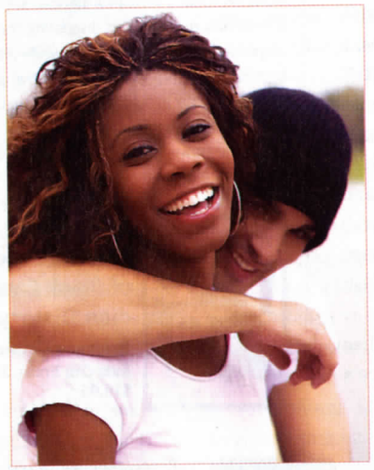
Dear Xania:

I'm a black West Indian woman in my mid-thirties and I've recently started to date a Latin man. I've never ventured into other cultures to explore romance; I've always dated black men. I have to admit, there are pros and cons to my new relationship, which have left me somewhat confused. We enjoy each other's company immensely. He's got rhythm on the dancefloor and has taught me a thing or two; he always treats me like a queen and the intimacy — hot. We both love to cook and merge our cultures very nicely in the kitchen. However, I thought the days of harsh stares were over. Sadly, they're not. Whenever we're hanging out at either an R&B or Latin club, the stares I receive from other women are fiercely shocking. I can't help but to wonder if I've become a "sell-out." If I'm receiving so much flack so early in this relationship, what can I expect from my family? Is there a sure way to know if this guy is going to follow the cheating trends of the lame black men that once plagued my life? And how can I mentally conquer the ignorance around me?

Adopted Latina

Congratulations on finding new romance, especially one that is proving to be *muy caliente*! Honey, enjoy your Latin lover and stop stressing on what other people are thinking. It's your life to live. Don't let small minds control your actions. If women are cutting their eyes at you, it's only because they wish they had what you have. You're not selling out — in fact, what the two of you are doing is now a normal part of the dating game. Look around you! You've embarked on something that I'm sure you'll find culturally and emotionally fulfilling, and hopefully physically exhausting (wink, wink). I'd hope that when your family sees the glow in your face and how happy the two of you are, they'll embrace the relationship. If not, try to ease them into the idea that you are dating outside your culture. Expect some resistance — anything worth having is worth fighting for.

Now, there is one small downfall with ol' boy. He's human. Unless there's some scientific madness I haven't heard about that can determine which culture's men cheat and which don't, you're going to have to rely on women's intuition. You and I



both know there's absolutely no way to pinpoint a cheater (aside from a long historical list of charges). Don't plant seeds in your mind if you don't have to, but don't play stupid. Remember, your relationship involves two people. Your guy might be going through the same mental struggles as you are. Keep the lines of communication open, share what's going on in your head, openly discuss your fears, and tell him what he does to make you happy. Once you've allowed yourself to accept him as a man and not a cultural diversity, that's when you'll mentally conquer any sort of ignorance.

Dear Xania:

My 17-year-old son has recently started to date a beautiful young Indian girl. He's fallen very hard for her, but what he doesn't know is that her life is already mapped out. A friend of mine, who knows the girl's family, shared a secret with me: my son's girlfriend has failed to tell him about her pre-arranged marriage. I think it's very selfish of her to withhold such important information and lead him on to think they can realistically be a couple. He's my son and I don't want to see him get hurt. I know I can't protect him from everything, but wouldn't I be just as wrong as she if I didn't tell him the truth?

Meddling Mom

Careful how you tread. Your meddling ways can strain the healthy relationship you have with your son. You have no idea what agreement these two may have made with one another. Did you stop and think that maybe he does know, and they've agreed to explore a temporary love? What if you're wrong and you've obtained incorrect information? If you're dead set on unveiling the so-called truth, I suggest you go to the source. The next time she's at your house, casually bring up the topic in conversation and watch her reaction. Inquire about her home life and religious/cultural beliefs. I realize you want to protect your son, but when it comes to his love affairs, you're probably best if you let nature take its course.

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO XANIA@XANIAENTERPRISES.COM

Sway
swaymag.ca
Spring 2007
FREE
K-OS GOES SOUTH
REELWORLD ROLLS OUT JAMAICA
&
SPRING FASHION SETS OFF METAL DETECTORS
GROWING UP FATHERLESS
AT HOME WITH TERESE SEARS
3 BLACK ENTREPRENEURS
Plus!
DIY SPA. AFROCENTRIC YOGA. BILLY BLANKS & MORE
Tamia
talks about career, health and her marriage to NBA superstar Grant Hill — meet the new boss
HARRY JEROME AWARDS 52 JUNO WHO SHOULD WIN? 56 AUTHOR AUSTIN CLARKE ON IMMIGRANTS AND IDENTITY 66
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
e first black woman rideau Hall home
haëlle
AN
ON VACATION WITH WILL SMITH AND OPRAH!
61

want to advertise? advertising@swaymag.ca
want *Sway* delivered to your place of business?
distribution@swaymag.ca

contact us: **416.596.4395** | **www.swaymag.ca**

OH... ONE MORE THING

The disturbing thing about second-generation immigrants

BY AUSTIN CLARKE

"It's disturbing to discover," read a recent *Globe and Mail* editorial, "the extent to which second-generation immigrants of colour feel less Canadian than their white counterparts in the same generation of immigrants."

Despite the editorialist's contention, the extraordinarily "disturbing" sentiment lies not in the "extent to which second-generation immigrants of colour" do not feel "Canadian," but rather in the definition of "immigrants of colour" used by the *Globe and Mail*.

What logic defines a "second-generation immigrant of colour" as an immigrant? Simpler logic ought to inform the *Globe* that a person born here in Canada is a Canadian. He may not feel Canadian because of the way he perceives that Canada treats him and identifies him, but he certainly is not a "second-generation immigrant."

He might consider himself — because of the way he is seen and treated by the society in which he lives — not to be Canadian. Even though the "immigrant of colour" is born here and carries a Canadian passport, this official status does not make him feel a pang of nationalism similar to the enthusiasm of his "white counterparts in the same generation of immigrants." This hesitation and, in many cases, this suspiciousness of feeling Canadian comes from the fact that Canada does not extend the same hospitality to the immigrant of colour and to the children of the immigrant of colour, in equal proportion and in equal sincerity, as it does — automatically, it seems — "to his white counterparts in the same generation of immigrants."

Perhaps the editorial ought to have asked the question "Why?" And not make the conclusion, implicit as it is, that the black man on this landscape of Toronto, and in any city in Canada, is not so enthusiastic as the white immigrant — born here, or not — to "identify" with Canadian nationalism.

The proposition of the editorial bothers me, and insults the intelligence of any black man or black woman living in this country. Perhaps, the proposition should have placed its sentiment in the form of a question, rather than in a statement of presumed authority or knowledge of the subject being discussed.

The questions would have to be asked: why would these white counterparts, recently off the boat and not yet citizens themselves, ask the question of a black man or black woman "Where were you born?" And when the answer is, as it can be in some cases, "I was born here," why then is there a subsidiary question — "But where were you *really* born?" Is the second question, though altered, still a challenge about the black man's legitimacy of citizenship equating, therefore, citizenship with nationality, and therefore with the colour of the immigrant?

These questions are still being posed to the immigrant of colour, whether born in Jamaica or in Toronto. They are not asked by civic or provincial officials or in surveys, but are posed by private persons, on the street or at a social gathering. This underlines the presumption that even the white immigrant does not associate citizenship — which is merely place of birth or settlement — with the immigrant of colour, even though, as a second-generation Canadian, he cannot logically be defined as an immigrant.

Another question that must be asked is this: why would a black man, with the same qualifications gained at a Canadian college or university, and with Canadian experience, who has greater difficulty in finding a job to suit his qualifications than his "white counterparts," have the same intensity of nationalistic loyality? Why would he, accused as he is — in sweeping presumption because of what he is — of being prone to violence? Why is the place he lives, Jane and Finch or St. James Town or Regent Park, used generally by the media, and by the ordinary Canadian citizen, to identify and define his character in a negative manner? Why is his place of birth assumed to be Jamaica; and why does the media presume that as a Jamaican he is a different kind of immigrant from the "white counterpart?" And why are all black people "Jamaican"; and why are all Jamaicans tarred, in Canada, with this brush of second-class Canadian citizenship?

The wisdom of consciousness, and of his understanding the nuances of his treatment, may in fact cause him to regard himself as Jamaican, even though he might be born in Halifax or in Trinidad. For the term Jamaican does not have only a geographical connotation. In a very real sense, we may all be Jamaican!

And it is the scorn bestowed upon the immigrant of colour, a sensibility couched in euphemistic language, that causes the chill and the moral trepidation of this so-called immigrant of colour towards a natural, voluntary and moral identification with Canada.

Nationalism and identifiying oneself as a citizen, as Canadian, is a mutually exclusive, moral and political consciousness. And the number of immigrants of colour who live in Toronto and elsewhere in Canada, though contributing to the political concept of multiculturalism, does not of itself imbue the immigrant of colour, even when he is the child of an immigrant — even when he is a citizen, and is not regarded as the same citizen as his white counterpart, whose nationalism is never questioned in the same terms — how then should anyone dare questioned in the same terms — how then should anyone dare express the sentiment that this man's hesitation to identify with this society is "disturbing?" Disturbing to whom?

AUSTIN CLARKE IS A MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF CANADA AND THE GILLER PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR OF *THE POLISHED HOE*

The 25th Annual BBPA Harry Jerome Awards

Success Runs in Our Race

The Annual BBPA Harry Jerome Awards
25 Years of Celebrating African Canadian Excellence

Established in the memory of Harry Jerome, an outstanding African Canadian Olympic athlete, scholar and social advocate, the BBPA Harry Jerome Awards has recognized 250 African Canadian models of excellence since 1983. Notable winners include former lieutenant governor of Ontario *Lincoln Alexander*, Senator *Donald Oliver*, entrepreneurs *Denham Jolly* and the late *Beverley Mascoll*, human rights advocate and former M.P.P the late Dr. *Rosemary Brown*, renowned jazz pianist *Oscar Peterson* and Olympic gold medalist *Mark McKoy*.

The Awards will be attended by Her Excellency the Right Honourable *Michaëlle Jean*, Governor General of Canada , the keynote speaker. The evening's hosts will be CTV Canada AM's News Anchor *Marci Ien* and Toronto Argonauts Quarterback *Damon Allen*.

Award recipients will be honoured in the following categories: *Academics, Arts Media & Entertainment, Athletics, Business, Community Service, Health Sciences, Leadership, Lifetime Achievement, President's Award, Professional Excellence, Technology & Innovation, Trailblazer and Young Entrepreneur.*

The 25th Annual BBPA Harry Jerome Awards will be held on April 28th at the Toronto Congress Centre. Tickets for this formal dinner/awards event and after party are $150.00 each. To purchase tickets call us at 416-504-4097 or send us an e-mail at bbpa@bellnet.ca.

Presenting Sponsor: RBC

Platinum Sponsors: ARRT Applied Rail Research Technologies, Bell, BMO Financial Group, Ernst & Young, 1310 News, IBM, IntelliPharmaCeutics Corp., Scotiabank Group, TD Bank Financial Group, State Farm Insurance

Gold/Silver/Bronze Sponsors: Centennial College, Ford, i'm lovin' it, Certified General Accountants, NHI Nursing & Homemakers Inc., SWAY

Black Business and Professional Association
675 King Street West, Suite 210 , Toronto , Ontario M5V 1M9

BARBADOS
experience the authentic Caribbean

Breathtaking Scenery

Incredible History

Zagat-Rated Dining

World-Class Golf

Diverse Culture

and much more!

MARVILLE TRAVEL LIMITED

90 HIGH STREET EAST, MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO, CANADA L5G 1K4 • TEL: (905) 891-0111 • FAX: (905) 891-0176

e-mail: information@marville.com www.marville.com TOLL FREE 1-800-461-0473

1-888-BARBADOS | WWW.VISITBARBADOS.ORG